

DH



DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good



India, Bhutan
to get two
rail links

Vaishnav announces
Rs 4,033-cr project
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in first rape case

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growth slips to
4% in August

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X to appeal against K'taka HC takedown order

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Sale of meat banned on Gandhi Jayanthi

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has prohibited the slaughter of animals and sale of meat on Gandhi Jayanthi (Thursday). The orders were issued by the Special Commissioner of the GBA's health wing.

Power disruption today

BENGALURU, DHNS: There will be no power supply in the following areas on Tuesday from 11 am to 4 pm due to emergency maintenance work at the Hennur MUSS-66 kV substation:

Hennur Bande, Samudrika Enclave, Grace Garden, Kristu Jayanti College, K Narayanapura, Bilishivaale, Asha Township, Maruti Township, Nagaragiri Township, BDS Garden, Kothanur, Patel Ramaiah Layout, CSI Gate, Byrathi Cross, Byrathi, Geddalalahalli, Blessing Garden, Mantri Apartment, Hiremath Layout, Trinity Fortune, Michael School, BHK Industries, Janakiram Layout, Vaddarapalya, Doddagubbi Cross, Kuvempu Layout, Sangam Enclave, Byrathi Bande, Nakshatra Layout, Thimmegowda Layout, Prakash Garden, and the surrounding areas.

Dasara special trains to Mangaluru & Ernakulam

BENGALURU, DHNS: To clear the extra rush of passengers during Dasara, the South Western Railway (SWR) will operate special trains between Bengaluru and Mangaluru and Ernakulam.

Train number 06257 will depart from Yeshwantpur at 11.55 pm on September 30 and reach Mangaluru Junction at 11.15 am the following day.

In the return direction, train number 06258 will leave Mangaluru Junction at 2.35 pm on October 1 and arrive at Yeshwantpur at 11.30 pm the same day.

The train will halt at Kunigal, Channarayana, Hassan, Sakleshpur, Subrahmanya Road, Kabakaputtur, and Bantawala in both directions.

Train number 06147 will leave Ernakulam Junction at 4.20 pm on October 5 and will reach Bengaluru Cantonment at 8.15 am the next day.

Train number 06148 will leave Bengaluru Cantonment at 10.10 pm on September 29 and October 6 and will reach Ernakulam Junction at 10 am on the third day (Tuesday).

The train will have stoppages at Aluva, Thrissur, Palakkad Junction, Podanur Junction, Tiruppur, Erode Junction, Salem Junction, Bangarapet, Whitefield, and KR Puram stations in both directions.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL
Urban Solace theatre: Tuesdays with the Bard, featured poet Aditi Sinha, Ulsoor; 7.30 pm.
Bangalore International Centre: 'A fly on the wall'; Speakers Nilesh Maniyar and Shonali Bose; Domlur; 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm; Free entry.
Bangalore International Centre: 'Beyond the Days of Wine and Roses, A Dialogue'; Author Sonal C Holland; Domlur; 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm.

◆ CITYWEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Generally cloudy sky with light rain
TEMPERATURES
Maximum 29.0°C
Minimum 20.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am) --
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm) 69%
Sunset (Sep 30) 6:11 pm
Sunrise (Oct 1) 6:09 am
Moonrise 12:08 pm
Moonset 11:34 pm
(Relevant data recorded at 5:30 pm) Source: IMD

On the cards: Paid parking on white-topped roads across city

Move follows a high-powered meeting chaired by chief secy

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is planning to convert white-topped roads with designated parking spaces into paid parking zones, with officials citing high construction costs and the city's worsening vehicle density.

The move follows a high-powered meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, attended by senior officials from multiple departments.

At the meeting, the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) highlighted that the city has 1.2 crore vehicles, of which 82% are two-wheelers.

"There is a severe shortage of parking spaces. Presently,

1,194 km of road length has been notified as 'no parking' areas," a senior traffic police officer said.

The chief secretary instructed commissioners to identify suitable parking locations, create alternative spaces, and issue tenders for local maintenance. Officials said the plan is expected to generate revenue and bring discipline.

White-topped roads, built at Rs 12 crore per kilometre compared with conventional roads that cost just 10% of this, will be the first to be brought under the system. Roads built under TenderSURE and the Bengaluru Smart City project will also be included.

So far, the civic body has white-topped about 150 km of roads, including Indiranagar 100 Ft, RT Nagar main road,



The recently white-topped RT Nagar road with a dedicated parking space. DH PHOTO/NAVEEN MENEZES

In Gandhi Bazaar

A multi-level car parking in Gandhi Bazaar, built at a cost of Rs 22.31 crore, accommodates 124 cars across four floors, with 25 retail shops on the

ground floor. This facility has also been awarded to Prince Royal Parking Solutions on lease for Rs 15.5 lakh annually.

Sampige Road, Kalyan Nagar road, in and around Majestic, among others.

Even a large part of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) from Kasturi Nagar to BEL Circle

is also white-topped, but the stretch does not have a dedicated parking space.

Towing vehicles
The chief secretary also direct-

At KR Market

The KR Market basement, once a hub for anti-social activities, has been converted into a paid parking lot managed by Prince Royal Parking Solutions on a 10-year lease. The firm will pay Rs 40.5 lakh annually to the corporation.

Spread across 10,000 square metres, the facility can accommodate 20 cars and 400 two-wheelers. Charges are Rs 15 per hour for two-wheelers and Rs 25 per hour for cars, with higher rates for longer parking. For instance, parking a two-wheeler for 8 hours costs Rs 85, while for cars, it is Rs 165.



Authorities have used a heart-shaped signal on MG Road to creatively remind people of heart health during 'World Health Day'. It is part of a public awareness campaign by the Bengaluru Traffic Police in collaboration with Manipal Hospitals. It also promotes quick access to emergency services via QR codes at key traffic junctions in the city.

DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Applications sought for minority loan schemes

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka Minorities Development Corporation (KMDC) has invited online applications from eligible candidates from religious minorities (except Christians) for loans/financial assistance under various schemes for 2025-26.

The schemes include Shrama Shakti/subsidy, incentive for silk reeling industry, taxi/goods vehicle purchase subsidy, vocational encouragement loan/subsidy, Santhwana, foreign/overseas education loan for higher studies abroad, and direct loans for business/entrepreneurial purposes.

Applicants must belong to a religious minority community and be a permanent resident of Karnataka for a minimum of 15 years.

Those who have already availed themselves of benefits from the corporation in the past will not be eligible to do so again.

Interested candidates can apply through <https://kmdc-online.karnataka.gov.in> by October 16 along with a copy of the application and with necessary documents, that must also be submitted to the corporation's office by October 10, the KMDC said in a press release.

For details, contact the KMDC District Manager's Office, Bengaluru Urban (South Division), Hameed Shah Complex, 2nd Floor, SF-2, behind Halasuru Gate Police Station, Cubbonpet Road, Bengaluru, or call 080-22114817, 8277799990.

Misreporting causes of deaths distorts cancer statistics

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, managed by the state government, is struggling to maintain accurate cancer survival data as doctors at PHCs and other centres often omit cancer while certifying deaths.

Doctors frequently attribute deaths of cancer patients to heart attacks, organ failure or other coexisting conditions, without recording cancer as the underlying or secondary cause. Experts say this distorts survival statistics.

Ideally, doctors are required to list the immediate cause of death and note cancer

as a contributing condition if it worsened the patient's health.

Dr T Naveen, Director of Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, told *DH*, "This is absolutely an issue of awareness from both the doctors and patients' families. We already have International Classification of Diseases coding in place; it needs to be promptly followed."

He said following procedures would help keep accurate survival records.

Dr Vijay from Kidwai said: "To compare the data to the number of cancer deaths a decade ago and now, we do not have reliable data because of this. Doctors should ask if the patient had any other serious conditions while certifying the

death and the patients' family should inform the doctor, too. We have written to the health department about it as well."

A PHC doctor, seeking anonymity, said: "While we are sometimes not informed about the condition of the patient, doctors do not make an effort to enquire or fill the complete form."

Doctors often certify the immediate cause and close the case, the doctor added.

The 2023 Population-based Cancer Registry of Karnataka recorded 21,608 cancer cases, of which 12,500 were new. Oral cancer is among the leading types in the state, with lung and liver cancers most common in men, and breast cancer among women.

Labourer hangs himself after strangling wife; police suspect domestic issues

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 29-year-old man allegedly killed his wife before ending his life at their rented house in Ullal, western Bengaluru, on Sunday night.

The deceased are Dharma-seelan Ramesh (29), a construction worker, and his wife, Manju P (27), a nurse. The police said the incident occurred between 8.30 pm and 9.30 pm.

Manju's father, Periyaswamy, 53, told the police that he discovered the bodies after returning from Tumakuru. He found the door locked from the inside. When he forced his way in, he found Manju's body on the bed with injuries on her neck and Ramesh hanging nearby.

Citing marks on Manju's neck with no other injuries, police suspect Ramesh strangled her before taking his life.

Periyaswamy, who had gone to Tumakuru with relatives on a labour contract, told the police that the couple had married in 2022 and lived in Pinnalavadi in Tamil Nadu, Ramesh's hometown, for a year.

Two years ago, Ramesh moved to Dubai in search of work, while Manju stayed in Bengaluru with her father and worked at a clinic. A month ago, Ramesh returned from Dubai, and Manju briefly stayed with him in Tamil Nadu before returning to Bengaluru 15 days ago.

Three days before the incident, Ramesh called Periyaswamy saying he wanted to shift to Bengaluru for work, to which Periyaswamy agreed.

A senior officer said the motive remained unclear, and they were probing whether domestic issues triggered the crime.

3 Sri Lankans nabbed for illegal stay

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Central Crime Branch (CCB) has detained three Sri Lankan nationals for allegedly staying illegally in Bengaluru.

The suspects—Videogame Iresh Hansaka Jayardhane, 31, Jayasingle Pathirannage Sugath Sameendu, 46, and Jayasariya Mudalige Dilip Harishan, 30 —are accused of entering India on a boat from Jaffna in 2024.

They first landed in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, before moving to the outskirts of Bengaluru. Since then, they had been living in an apartment in Devanahalli.

During interrogation, the men revealed that they had entered without a passport or visa, with the help of another foreigner, the police said.

2 foreigners, dental student among 7 held in Rs 9.93-cr drug bust

BENGALURU, DHNS: A dental student and two foreigners are among seven people arrested in five separate cases for allegedly peddling narcotics worth Rs 9.93 crore.

The police seized 3.858 kg of MDMA crystals, 41 grams of ecstasy pills, 1.82 kg of hydro ganja, and 6 kg of regular ganja. A car and a two-wheeler used in the crime were also impounded.

In the first case, the CCB apprehended Ranjith Anthony Mathew, 33, a dental college student, near Aduangi on September 19. He told the police that he had purchased hydro ganja and sold it at higher prices to lead a luxurious life.

On September 24, the police seized 1.22 kg of hydro ganja worth Rs 1 crore stashed

in a foreign package and sent to the Foreign Post Office in KG Nagar. The operation was based on intelligence inputs.

On September 25, the CCB arrested Thomas Navid Chime, 42, and Ngwu Kingsley Chukwuemeka, 32, both from Nigeria. They seized 3.858 kg of MDMA crystals and 82 ecstasy pills worth Rs 7.80.

The duo revealed they had purchased MDMA crystals and ecstasy pills cheaply and sold them at higher rates to known customers. They had come to India in 2019 on medical and student visas.

In two other cases in the Siddapura and Mahadevapura police stations, four people were arrested and hydro ganja worth Rs 75 lakh and ganja worth Rs 6 lakh were seized.



Most doctors prescribe antibiotics for child diarrhoea: Study

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Despite medical guidelines recommending Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) and zinc for treating child diarrhoea, most doctors in Karnataka continue to prescribe antibiotics instead, a recent study has found.

The study, titled 'Child Diarrhoea: Experimental Evidence from India', sent trained patients to 129 randomly selected doctors in Karnataka. It found that only 24% prescribed ORS, while 58.9% gave antibiotics. Zinc was prescribed in 5.4% of cases, and just 2.3% of patients received both ORS and zinc.

More than 2,000 providers across 253 medium-sized towns in Karnataka and Bihar participated in the study.

The Indian Academy of Paediatrics recommends ORS combined



with zinc as the standard treatment for rotavirus infections, and no antibiotics. Rotavirus is the most common cause of child diarrhoea. Karnataka reported 64,229 cases of child diarrhoea and two deaths from Acute Diarrhoeal Disease (ADD) in the first few months of 2025.

"Most children with diarrhoea visit a health care provider for treatment, and many of these children still do not receive ORS," said Arnab Mukherjee, Professor of Public Policy at the Indian Institute of

Management Bangalore (IIMB) and one of the researchers.

Doctors often prescribe antibiotics instead of ORS, which fails to address dehydration and does not work against common viral diarrhoea pathogens, he added.

"Doctors usually prefer antibiotics over ORS as it provides immediate relief, but antibiotics usually make children weaker and take time for them to regain strength," said Sudha Sunaga, a child healthcare expert. Researchers noted that private

providers may be responding to financial incentives to sell more profitable alternatives. ORS is inexpensive, while antibiotics generate nearly double the profit. Practitioners also assume patients do not prefer ORS because of its taste.

"In rural areas, if doctors prescribe an antibiotic and the diarrhoea immediately stops, then the doctor is considered the best and everyone wishes to go to them. Doctors take advantage of this," said a child healthcare expert, who wished to remain anonymous.

The study also found that many caretakers approach pharmacists instead of doctors as they do not charge a consultation fee. Pharmacies were nine percentage points more likely to prescribe ORS when financial incentives were removed, suggesting that low ORS prescribing in pharmacies may partly be explained by profit motives.

PRESCRIPTION PATTERN

Govt to extend services of guest lecturers for current semester

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a bid to end the uncertainty surrounding the appointment of guest lecturers to state-run first-grade colleges, the government has decided to extend services of guest faculty members for the current semester.

In its order issued on Monday, the Department of Higher Education said that the decision had been made with the interests of students in mind. Consequently, guest lecturers who were appointed in 2024-25 will continue to work at government degree colleges.

"In the academic interest of the students, the state government has decided to extend the term of guest faculty members who worked in the 2024-25 academic year until the completion of the current semester of the 2025-26 academic year," read the department's order. The order further added that government first-grade colleges could appoint additional guest lecturers as long as they had the qualifications prescribed by the University Grants Commission (UGC).

The decision was taken after seeking the Additional Advocate General's legal opinion.

A September 2024 order by the High Court mandating the government to appoint only those who met the UGC's criteria—a PhD or NET/KSET qualification—as guest lecturers plunged the future of thousands of guest faculty members in uncertainty. Nearly 5,500 of the 11,00 guest lecturers working at state-run colleges do not have the prescribed qualifications. Citing the lack of eligible candidates for some subjects, the government had filed an appeal in the court, seeking to extend the services of guest lecturers appointed the previous year.

Given that the lack of guest lecturers impacted academic activities at colleges, many student organisations held demonstrations demanding their appointment.

The government's decision to extend the services of guest lecturers comes in the wake of the High Court upholding its earlier order on the requirement of UGC-prescribed qualifications during a recent hearing.

'They can't manage B'loru, how can they build AI city in Bidadi?'

Farmers intensify protest against Integrated Township

**ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS**

Farmers have slammed the Greater Bengaluru Integrated Township (GBIT), envisioned as India's first AI-powered city about 40 km west of Bengaluru, as a "gimmick" driven by real-estate sharks.

The project will span 9,600 acres over 26 villages in Byramangala and Kanchugarahalli gram panchayats near Bidadi. Greater Bengaluru Development Authority (GBDA), the project implementing agency, is currently conducting a Joint Measurement Survey and issuing notices to landowners.

However, farmers have hardened their resolve against

land acquisition. Their protest, which entered the 201st day on Monday, has received support from opposition parties, the JD(S) and the BJP.

Anand C S, one of the farmers, questioned the very foundation of the urban project, pointing to the poor state of the capital.

"Look at Bengaluru, which is full of potholes and poor infrastructure, leading to accidents now and then. They can't even manage the capital. How can they propose an AI city in Bidadi? It's just a gimmick to make more money," he alleged.

Ramaiah, president of Raithara Bhoothitha Rakshana Sangha, a farmers' organisation, criticised Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, who had suggested that



Farmers Kumar N, Shivalingappa and Hemanth at their farmland in Byramangala, near Bidadi, on Monday. DH PHOTO/ASHWIN B M

the protesting farmers were fake. "Shall we provide proof? Shall I show my Aadhaar? Why this oppression against farmers?"

Bhagamma, a widow who owns 2.5 acres, said: "If we have land, we can make our ends meet by leasing. But no land means no life for us. Who will employ us at this age?"

Shivalingappa, 72, from Meravagowdanaddi, Byra-

mangala, said: "I fold my hands, please don't acquire our lands. We work hard in our fields. We are six brothers in a joint family; each of us owns an acre of land, and this land is our life."

Kumar N, another protester, said: "The government's plan is to acquire land for as low as Rs 1-1.5 crore per acre, and sell it to developers at Rs 5-6 crore."

Nagaraj Hosur, who agrees

to part with his land, says he expects Rs 5 to 6 crore per acre, citing land prices in neighbouring industrial areas.

"Many will come forward if the government pays this much," he said.

Dr TN Prakash Kammaradi, noted agricultural economist and former chairman of the Karnataka Agricultural Prices Commission, highlighted farmers' fears of losing their land, the need for a clear land acquisition policy, and the importance of protecting fertile, irrigated land.

CN Manjunath, Bangalore Rural MP, said: "Ninety percent of the land is fertile, and farmers are actively cultivating it, growing fruits, vegetables, pulses, cereals, etc. This is also a sericulture zone. Most importantly, farmers do not want this project. When the farmers do not want this, what is the point of establishing a township?"

He said potential reduction in cultivable land will have "long-term consequences on agriculture and the livelihoods of people".

Ladakh outfits harden stand; LAB pulls out of talks with Centre

Ladakh, from Page 1

The alliance also accused the UT administration of mishandling the situation.

"The government cannot hope to crush Ladakh's aspirations through force," a KDA leader said, warning any further delay in fulfilling demands could deepen mistrust.

The arrest of Wangchuk under the stringent National Security Act (NSA) has added a new angle to the crisis. The police allege Wangchuk—an internationally recognised climate campaigner who has become the face of Ladakh's political mobilisation—had links across the border and was "instigating unrest", but his supporters insist he has only championed local rights and sustainable development.

The demand for statehood in Ladakh has been building up since August 2019, when the region was carved out of J&K and turned into a union territory without an elected Assembly. Many Ladakhis initially welcomed the move, hoping it would bring development and visibility to the sparsely populated and strategic Himalayan region. But over time, concerns about loss of constitutional protections for land, culture and jobs led to widespread discontent.

In 2021, LAB—a coalition of political, religious, and social organisations in Leh—and KDA in Kargil came together to form a rare united front to hold talks with the union government. The Sept 24 clashes, deadliest in Ladakh in years, have cast a shadow over the future of dialogue.

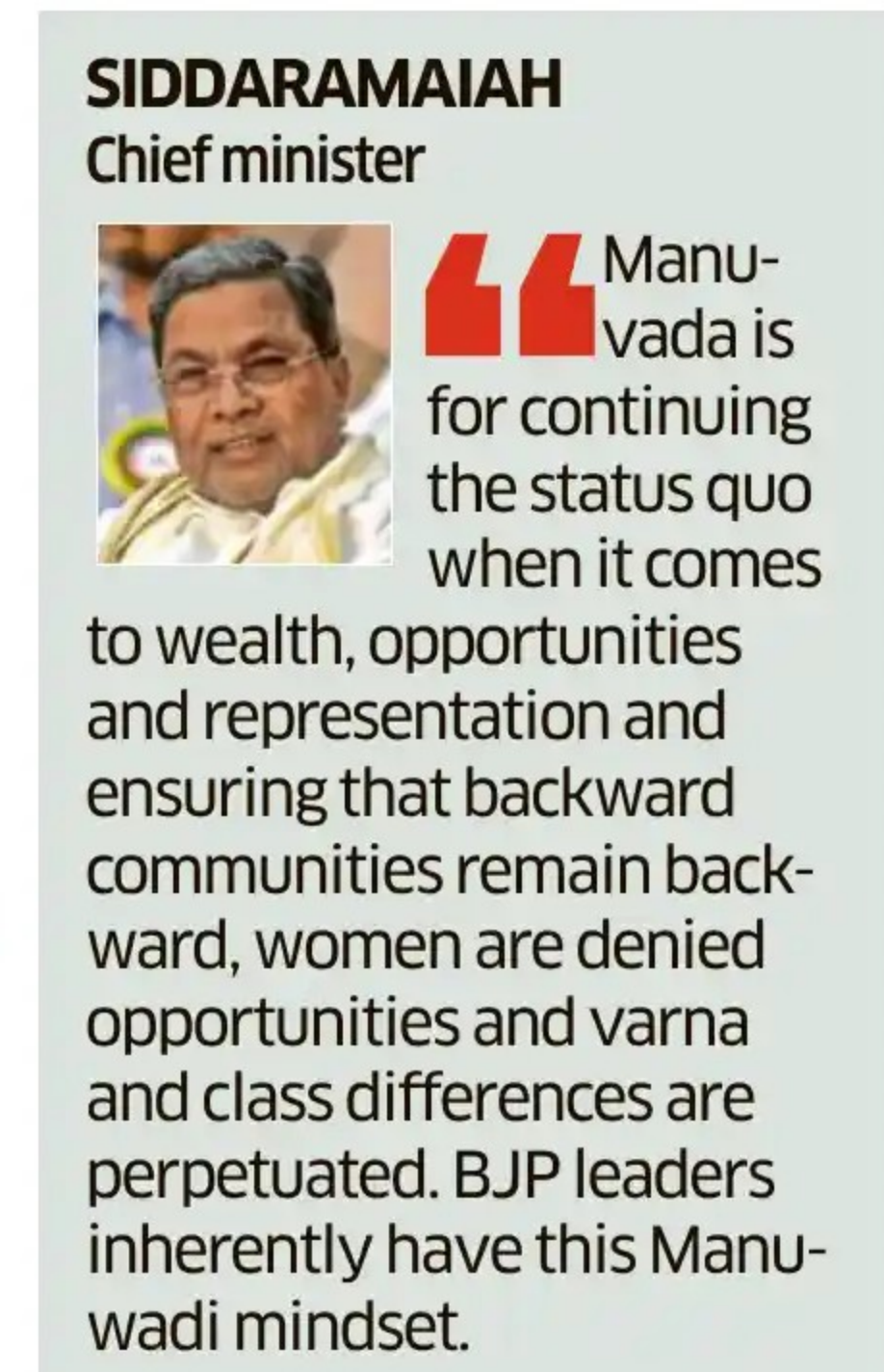
CM rebukes BJP leaders over 'boycott survey' call

'Do you oppose caste census in Centre's enumeration?'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday flayed certain BJP leaders for urging people to boycott the ongoing social and educational survey, accusing them of having an "inherent Manuvadi" mindset.

"As soon as our government started the social-economic and educational survey, the true colours of those chanting 'Sabka saath sabka vikas' were exposed. Bystanding that the survey should be boycotted, BJP leaders are getting exposed in front of the public," the chief minister said in a press note.



SIDDARAMAIAH
Chief minister

Manuvada is for continuing the status quo when it comes to wealth, opportunities and representation and ensuring that backward communities remain backward, women are denied opportunities and varna and class differences are perpetuated. BJP leaders inherently have this Manuvadi mindset.

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi had said during an interaction with mediapersons that he wouldn't provide his information to enumerators. BJP's B'lore South MP L S Tejasvi Surya had also urged people to boycott the survey. However, the BJP is yet to take an official stand.

"The survey by our government is not merely to know the condition of people from the Dalit, backward classes and minority communities. We will even know the details about the poor and the underprivileged from forward communities. BJP doesn't want this reality to come out. They want the vested interests in each caste and religion to maintain wealth, representation and opportunities," Siddaramaiah said.

"Manuvada (thoughts of Hindu lawgiver Manu as mentioned in the 'Manusmriti') is

continuing the status quo when it comes to wealth, opportunities and representation and ensuring that backward communities remain backward, women are denied opportunities and varna and class differences are perpetuated. BJP leaders inherently have this Manuvadi mindset," he added.

Referring to the Centre's decision to enumerate castes during the upcoming decadal census, Siddaramaiah wondered if BJP leaders would oppose that as well. "Will you also oppose the caste census in Centre's population Census? If yes, tell it openly. When you cannot speak to the PM by holding your head high, can you oppose this? Through such foolish statements, why are you becoming a laughing stock in front of the aware citizens of Karnataka?"

The chief minister urged people to participate in the survey.

Cong MLC writes to Nadda

In a letter to BJP national president J P Nadda, Congress MLC Ramesh Babu said: "It is highly inappropriate and damaging for senior leaders and elected representatives of the BJP to oppose a lawful, constitutional exercise that is meant to protect the rights of backward classes. I therefore demand that the BJP take strict action against Shri Pralhad Joshi and Shri Tejasvi Surya for their anti-OBC stand... The party should immediately clarify its official position on the Karnataka OBC Survey."

OC: Govt to study compliance with SC order in other states

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday instructed officials to study the measures taken in other states following a Supreme Court order mandating occupancy certificates (OCs) for electricity and water supply connections.

The meeting was held following concerns that a number of buildings in the Greater Bengaluru Area (GBA) and across the state are unable to get the necessary connections on time.

During the meeting, Siddaramaiah posed a question to the officers about states that have already implemented the Supreme Court's December 2024 order. As officers did not have the answer ready, he instructed them to come back with the response.

The meeting also discussed the possibility of granting permission for buildings

constructed in violation of the rules and regulations, which in Bengaluru, are known as 'B' khata properties. The meeting resolved to find ways to solve the problem while noting that it is not possible to demolish the entire building.

Energy Minister K J George, who is also the MLA of Sarvagnanagar in the city, said a meeting would be held on October 8 where measures taken in other states would be discussed at length. He said the final decision would be taken in two or three weeks after taking legal opinion on providing electricity and water connections to building without OCs.

Recently, the government had taken a decision to waive OCs for buildings coming up on the plot size of up to 1,200 square feet. The fresh talk covers plots that are larger than 1200 sqft.

Caste survey: 41 lakh households enumerated

BENGALURU, DHNS: More than 41 lakh households have been enumerated across the state during the ongoing Social and Educational Survey. A total of 13.83 lakh households were enumerated on Monday. The survey that began on September 22 will end on October 07.

There are around 1.43 crore households in the state. In the remaining eight days, nearly 1.02 crore households need to be enumerated.

Bengaluru Deputy Commissioner (DC) G Jagadeesha clarified on Monday that ration cards will not be cancelled during the ongoing social and educational survey.

"This ambitious state government project aims solely to

collect social and educational data of backward classes and other communities. No ration cards will be cancelled during the survey," he added. He urged the public not to yield to any such rumours and to participate in the survey without any inhibition and fear. Historically, such surveys have been lukewarm in Bengaluru.

Both the social and educational survey overseen by the H Kantharaju-led backward classes commission in 2015 and the statewide survey of Scheduled Castes (SCs) overseen by the H M Nagamohan Das Commission in 2025 have not been satisfactory in Bengaluru, even though the numbers were much better in other districts.

Brahmin body reiterates stand on survey

BENGALURU, DHNS: There is "very little trust" that Brahmins will receive any benefit, direct or indirect, by participating in the ongoing caste survey, the Akhila Karnataka Brahmana Mahasabha said on Monday.

In a statement, Mahasabha president S Raghunath reiterated that participation in the survey was voluntary and not compulsory, citing the recent HC order. "The court is yet to consider our argument in the

writ application on how the survey is illegal," he said.

"Brahmin community members who want to participate are requested to identify 'Hindu' as their religion and 'Brahmana' as caste. They need not identify sub-caste. Answering the remaining 59 questions is left to the discretion of respondents," it said. The Mahasabha said the ongoing survey was a "caste census" and not an exercise aimed at alleviating poverty among all sections of society.

Teacher deputed for caste survey dies of heart attack

CHINTAMANI (CHIKKABALLAPUR DIST): DHNS: A 58-year-old teacher deputed for social and economic survey died of heart attack while on duty, in Chintamani on Sunday evening. Teachers' associations have alleged that he was under pressure to complete the survey at the earliest.

The deceased has been identified as Y V Ramakrishna, who was working as a teacher at government lower primary school in Digavakote under Yagavakote cluster of Chintamani taluk. He is survived by his wife and a son.

Family sources said that Ramakrishna was not well-versed with use of android phone. He had shared with his family and friends about his inability to meet the survey target. On Sunday, he conducted the survey with the help of another teacher till 3 pm. Since he felt uneasiness, he went to a private doctor who asked him to rush to the nearest hospital. Ramakrishna went to a private hospital. But by the time the doctor examined him, Ramakrishna had died.

Teachers' associations alleged that Ramakrishna was under pressure on account of a circular warning disciplinary action against enumerators not reaching the target.

NANDI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE
E-mail: cimschikkaballapura@gmail.com, Phone and Fax: 08156-272388
NO:NMC&RI/CKB/E-TENDER/01/2025-26 Date:24.09.2025

Tender Notification
Nandi Medical College & Research Institution (District Hospital Campus) Chikkaballapura invites tenders from the eligible tenderers through the E-Tenders for the following subjects. (1) Drugs (Call-2), (2) Consumables (Call-2), (3) Pest Control Services, (4) Vehicle Service Contract. For further information about tender the details please log on to: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.
Note: For any further information and announcements regarding this tender please keep on watching our website i.e., <https://cimschikkaballapura.karnataka.gov.in>
Sd/- DIRECTOR, NMC&RI, CHIKKABALLAPURA
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ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL
K KAMARAJ ROAD, BANGALORE-42
Tele No : 080-25581238
www.apsbangalore.edu.in

DATE OF AUCTION - 09TH OCT 2025 (1000HRS)
AUCTION OF 03 X OLD VINTAGE SCHOOL BUSES AND 01 X EECO VAN AT ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, K KAMARAJ ROAD, BANGALORE-42

Tender No	Description of Work
APS/339/2025-26	Auction of 03 x old vintage School Buses and one Eeco Van

Note

- The auction will be held on 09th Oct 2025 at 1030 hrs in the school premises, in the presence of the Board of Officers.
- Bidders are requested to report at the school 30 minutes prior to commencement of the auction.
- The above vehicles will be sold to the highest bidder.
- Interested bidders may inspect the vehicles on all working days during school hours (0700 hrs to 1500 hrs) in the school premises.
- Copies of the RCs of all the vehicles are attached for ready reference.

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Kalasa Project Division, Khanapur - 591302.
E-mail id: eekpdkhanapur@gmail.com, Ph.No. 08336-222163.

No. KNNL/KPD/KNP/PB/TND/2025-26/1267, 1268 Dated: 25-09-2025

SHORT TERM: PERCENTAGE TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP-Portal Only)

Percentage tender is invited from eligible Agency with valid copy of the registration of the Firm / Company with the register of Companies through KPP-Portal according to standard tender document rules in prescribed form on behalf of Managing Director, Karnataka Neeravari Nigam Limited, Bengaluru.

(1) Name of Work: **Consultancy Services For Third Party Inspection, Supervision and Submission of Reports etc Complete For The Work of Hirebagewadi TFS (W.I. No. KNNL/2025-26/SE0265).** Amount put to tender (Inclusive of GST): 83.71 Lakhs.
(2) **Consultancy Services For Third Party Inspection, Supervision And Submission of Reports etc Complete For The Work Of Uchagaon And Santibastawad Tank Filling Scheme (W.I. No. KNNL/ 2025-26/SE0246).** Amount put to tender (Inclusive of GST): 131.45 Lakhs.

1) Details and Tender documents may be downloaded through website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in/index.seam and filled bids may be submitted through KPP-Portal till date: **10-10-2025, 4.00 PM.** 2) The Last date & time for tender queries is **04-10-2025 at 11.00AM.** Technical bid will be opened on **13-10-2025 at 10.30 AM.** 3) For further details such as, EMD amount, time limit, cost of tender form, eligibility for work, terms and conditions of tender visit our Website: www.komkarnataka.gov.in or Contact the EE, KPD, Khanapur during office hours on any working day. (Office Telephone No. 08336-222163).

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, Kalasa Project DIVISION, Khanapur, Belagavi.

DIPR/Belagavi/1112/Adverto/2025-26

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No.: BDA/EE/ID/SPT/T-87/2025-26 Date: 29.09.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/>)

Tender is invited for Providing and Supply of POC/LTE/MCX Wireless Communication Network for BDA Head Office, Bangalore Project work invited by Bangalore Development Authority (Indent Number: BDA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT167). Tender Schedule is as below :

- Last Date and Time for tender Queries is: **03.10.2025, 16:30:00.**
- Last Date and Time for Receipt of tenders: **08.10.2025, 16:30:00.**
- Date and Time of Opening Technical Bid: **10.10.2025, 16:30:00.**
- Date and Time of Opening Financial Bid: **13.10.2025, 16:30:00.**

Interested contractors can view further details on <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> and for more details it is requested to contact The Executive Engineer, Infrastructure Division of BDA during Office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Infrastructure Division, BDA, Bengaluru.

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No.: BDA/EE/ID/HO/T-89/2025-26 Date: 29.09.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GoK e-Procurement platform <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/>)

Tender is invited for Supply and Erection of Elevator at BDA Head Office Premises 'A' Block, Bangalore, Project work invited by Bangalore Development Authority (Indent Number: BDA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT163). Tender Schedule is as below :

- Last Date and Time for tender Queries is: **06.10.2025, 16:30:00.**
- Last Date and Time for Receipt of tenders: **13.10.2025, 16:00:00.**
- Date and Time of Opening Technical Bid: **15.10.2025, 16:30:00.**
- Date and Time of Opening Financial Bid: **18.10.2025, 16:30:00.**

Interested contractors can view further details on <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> and for more details it is requested to contact The Executive Engineer, Infrastructure Division of BDA during Office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Infrastructure Division, BDA, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client **Sri.A.Harish S/o C.V.Adinarayana** R/at No.15, Srinivasa Nilaya, Third Floor, BEML Layout, 5th Stage, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore, intends to purchase the schedule property mentioned herein from Smt.Nagarajshree Mohan Rao D/o Meenakshi Mohan Rao, R/at No. 380/1, Rainbow Drive, Opp. Wipro, Sarjapura Road, Doddakannali, Bangalore, and she is the true and lawful owner and having a good, valid marketable, right title and interest. She further represents that the schedule property is free from prior charges, encumbrances, lien, court attachments etc., and that they have an unfettered, indefensible right to alienate, claiming through sale deed dated 31/08/1989, regd. as document no. 1517/1989-90, Book-1, Volume-29, Book-1, at pages 13-19, registered before the office of the Sub-registrar, Kengeri, Bangalore. However, it is notified to the general public at large that in the event of any claim charge, lien etc., the same should be brought known to the undersigned along with the documentary evidence within a period of 7 days and in the event of failure, my client will proceed to purchase in accordance with law. Any claim lodged thereafter, shall be at their peril.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No 276, Phase-II, Ideal Homes Co-operative Society Ltd., in Sector No.G, in the Ideal Homes Project Township, Kenchenahally, Bangalore South Taluk, now New EPID No. 8687172976, Property No. 940/276/932/883, BBMP/HBCC Ideal Homes Layout, 4th Cross, Opp. Sparsh Hospital, Ward No. 160, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore, bounded on East by Site No.275, West by Site No.277, North by Private Land, South by: Cross Road.

C.M.Niranjana Swamy, Advocate, 2nd Cross, Gowripet, Kolar, Mob No. 9448402783 Place: Kolar. Date: 29/09/2025

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum-01 to E-Tender Notice No: **SWRSBCEMD/PREP/2025** Dated: 09-09-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Name of the work	Approx. Value
Empainment of supplies [Rs. 1,35,11,584/-] for Local purchase of all types of Medicines to Medical stores of Divisional Railway Hospital Bengaluru for a period of 2 years.	

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15.00 Hrs. on 10-10-2025**
For details log on to: www.irops.gov.in

Chief Medical Superintendent Bengaluru

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GOVERNMENT OF BHARAT



Yashwanth Sardeshpande

Theatre person Yashwanth Sardeshpande dead

BENGALURU, DHNS: Veteran theatre artiste Yashwant Sardeshpande, who was known for comedy roles, died of massive heart attack in the city on Monday. He was 60.

Sardeshpande had just landed in Bengaluru on Monday morning after a performance in Dharwad on Sunday.

He was known for his performance in the Dharwad dialect and had close to 60 plays to his credit, as a director. Some of the plays include 'Andhayuga', 'Inspector General', 'Midsummer Night's Dream', 'Pushparani' and 'Tunta Makkala Tante'.

Born in Ukkali in Vijayapura district, he started performing in theatre from a young age. He then trained in theatre at Ninasam, Heggodu.

Known for comedy, some of his plays are 'All the Best', 'Sahi Re Sahi', and 'Dil Maange More'. He acted in popular TV shows like Paapa Pandu, and participated in Kannadada Kotyadipathi. He wrote the dialogues for the film 'Rama Shyama Bhama' and was also the language coach for Kamal Hassan for the North Karnataka dialect. The actor was supposed to perform in a musical comedy, 'Kolu.Com(edy)' directed by renowned flautist Pravin Godkhindi in October.

He is survived by his wife Malathi, who is also a theatre person.

BJP functionary's death: Police give clean chit to Cong MLA Ponnanna, others

BENGALURU, DHNS: Nearly six months after the death of a BJP functionary, who had blamed Congress leaders, the Hennur police filed the closure report, giving a clean chit to Congress' Madikeri MLA A S Ponnanna and other suspects accused of abetment.

Vinay Somaiah, 35, was found hanging in his office in Hennur police station limits on April 4. Before his death, he allegedly posted a message on social media, accusing Thennira Mahina, Congress worker in Kodagu, as responsible for his death.

Somaiah's brother Jeevan KS filed a complaint with the Hennur police against Mahina and Congress MLAs Ponnanna & Mantar Gowda, alleging harassment by them & their supporters.

A case was registered against 3, including Somaiah, at Madikeri town station on Feb 5. Somaiah was administrator of WhatsApp group 'Kodagina Samasyegal', where derogatory messages against Ponnanna were allegedly shared.

The Hennur police registered a case under BNS sections 352 (intentional insults likely to cause a breach of public peace or commission of another offence), 351 (criminal intimidation) & 108 (abetment of suicide) after Somaiah's death. After a probe, police concluded that there was "lack of evidence" to back the allegation that the suspects were responsible.

Govt launches online system to streamline land acquisition

Uses real-time satellite imagery to fix compensation

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government on Monday launched an online system for land acquisition. Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda who inaugurated the facility, said that the new system would help curb instances of fraud.

Interacting with journalists in Bengaluru, the minister said that all Special Land Acquisition Officers (SLAOs) would henceforth be required to complete the process on the new system. "The online system will be put into use immediately, and the concerned officials will be given credentials to log into the system. We have rolled out this new system to ensure that the land acquisition process is not hobbled by fraudulent activities and to ensure that injustice is not meted out to innocent people," said Krishna Byre Gowda.

Citing instances of officials purchasing land earmarked

for acquisition by the government, the minister added, "Thousands of crores of rupees were misappropriated when land was being acquired for national highway projects. The National Highways Authority of India chairman has informed the Karnataka Chief Secretary that the agency cannot undertake any projects in the state unless the land acquisition process is streamlined."

Pointing to legal hurdles that often delayed the land acquisition process, Krishna Byre Gowda lamented failures on the part of the government's lawyers to respond to legal challenges in a time-bound manner. "When acquisition of land is challenged in the court, our advocates have



KRISHNA BYRE GOWDA
Revenue Minister

The online system will be put into use immediately, and the officials concerned will be given credentials to log into the system. We have rolled out this new system to ensure that the land acquisition process is not hobbled by fraudulent activities and to ensure that injustice is not meted out to innocent people.

to file an appeal within 120 days. Otherwise, even if we go to the Supreme Court, our plea will be rejected," he added.

The online system will use real-time satellite imagery to determine the amount to be paid in compensation to the owner parting with land marked for acquisition, said the minister. "There are reports of people planting grown trees on land so they can ask for more money. An active network of people from Andhra Pradesh is behind this," said Krishna Byre Gowda.

The new system has been developed after a detailed study by an expert committee, said the minister, adding that a workshop would be held for SLAOs to familiarise them with the online system.

CM changes BMTC chief after furore in Congress

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah appointed Monday senior Congress functionary V S Aradhya as chairperson of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), three days after a junior party spokesperson Niketh Raj Maurya was given this post.

On September 26, Niketh took charge as the BMTC chairperson after Siddaramaiah picked him for the post. Aradhya was made vice-chairperson of the transport utility.

Sources in the party said this "erroneous" decision triggered discontent among the party's cadre.

"Aradhya has been associated with Congress for 42 years. Niketh joined the party only a few years ago. It was unacceptable that Aradhya was made vice-chairperson under Niketh. This decision caused discontent among the party workers," a senior Congress leader said.

The Congress high command had to intervene, resulting in Siddaramaiah ordering the appointment of Aradhya as the BMTC chairperson. Aradhya, currently a vice-president of the Karnataka Congress, started off as the NSUI Binny-pet block president in 1983.

Last week, Siddaramaiah had excluded seven Congress functionaries who were picked by the Congress as chairpersons of various boards and corporations.

On Monday, Siddaramaiah gave new positions to six of them: Syed Mehmood Chisty (Pulses Development Corporation), Sharanappa Saladpur (Temperance Board), B S Kavalagi (Lime Development Board), Anjanappa (Seeds Corporation), Neelkant Mulge (Spices Development Board) and Anilkumar Jamadar (vice-president, Jawahar Bal Bhavan). The CM has not given any position to R S Sathyanarayana, who was in the Congress' list as head of the temperance board.

CM must resign, says Ashoka citing contractors' letter

'Why have ministers not come forward and denied the charges?'

BENGALURU, DHNS

In the wake of the Karnataka State Contractors' Association's allegations about rampant corruption, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka on Monday demanded that CM Siddaramaiah resign immediately. The CM had failed to keep his pre-poll promise to usher in transparency in administration, charged Ashoka.

Recalling Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D K Shivakumar's '40% commission' campaign against the previous BJP government, Ashoka said, "Congress leaders promised to end corruption. But far from keeping that promise, corruption is flourishing and the commission rate has apparently doubled according to the contractors. This is proof that the Congress

regime is '80% commission' government".

Ashoka expressed surprise over the government's failure to respond to or refute the allegations. "If the ruling party has any dignity, ministers named in the letter should have come forward and issued a detailed clarification," said the LoP, accusing the government of harassing contractors.

Pointing to the 'Pay CM' poster campaign the Congress had launched against then CM Basavaraj Bommai, he said, "Congress leader Rahul Gandhi must answer the questions raised against his party now".

Referring to mounting opposition to the proposed township project in Bidadi, he said, "Why was this stalled development project revived?"

Alleging that the project was a pretext for generating illicit revenue through real estate deals, Ashoka questioned the government's interest in Bidadi. "Why is the government trying to acquire fertile agriculture land?" said Ashoka.



R Ashoka

TELLING MANY A TALE



A woman looks at Dasara dolls put up for sale at a shop in Malleswaram in Bengaluru on Monday. DH PHOTO/KISHOR KUMAR BOLAR

Maharani Cluster varsity to confer six honorary doctorates

BENGALURU, DHNS: Maharani Cluster University has announced honorary doctorates to six achievers, including senior actress Bharathi Vishnuvardhan, founder of Biocon Limited Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, former woman cricketer Veda Krishnamurthy and writer and activist Du Saraswathi.

The doctorates will be conferred during the 2nd and 3rd annual convocations of

the university on October 3. Two other people receiving honorary doctorates are: Homeopathy practitioner Dr BT Rudresh and philanthropist H N Usha.

Governor and chancellor of the university Thaawar Chand Gehlot will present the doctorates. Minister for Higher Education Dr M C Sudhakar will grace the occasion. Sabiha Bhoomigowda, former VC of Karnataka State Akkama-

hadevi Women's University, Vijayapura, will deliver convocation address.

"The varsity has not held a convocation for two years now. So, the 2nd and 3rd convocations are being held together," said Manjunatha T M, VC (Acting) of the university.

As many as 159 gold medals will be awarded to undergraduate and postgraduate students and a total of 3,573 students will receive degrees.

Bengaluru Metro extension to Tumakuru likely to cost Rs 20,649 cr: HM

TUMAKURU, DHNS:

District incharge Minister G Parameshwara said on Monday that extending the metro rail from Bengaluru's Madavara to Tumakuru could cost approximately Rs 20,649 crore.

He told reporters here that the government had issued an order on September 25 to prepare a detailed project report (DPR). The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) has been entrusted with this task of preparing the DPR, with a budget allocation of Rs 3 crore. The report is expected to be submitted soon, he informed.

BMRL has already submitted a feasibility report. The metro extension plan is progressing through various stages, currently limited to urban areas. Extending metro services to rural areas will require new legislation and adherence to several regulations.

The metro project will be implemented under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. After the DPR is submitted, proposals seeking approval will be forwarded to the central government.

Revenue villages

The minister announced that 1,085 new revenue villages had been identified in the district. By the end of 2025, land ownership certificates will be distributed to 28,759 families.

The minister said 13 new hostels are being constructed in Tumakuru city. The 58 hostels at present accommodate 11,500 students.

Dasara: KSRTC to charge extra for B'luru-Mysuru bus services

► BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has announced Dasara special fares for bus services between Bengaluru and Mysuru as part of a long-standing practice. According to the KSRTC statement, the special fares will be charged until October 8. Passengers will have to pay an additional Rs 20 and Rs 30 for express/non-stop

and premier bus services, respectively. According to the KSRTC, it has been collecting the special fares on special days/fairs/holidays for the last two decades.

The extra charge is aimed at covering the cost of operations because the special bus services that operate on the said days usually run empty or with few passengers in the return journey.

PAIN GOES IN VAIN

Poor conviction rate takes sheen off strict vigil against gold smuggling

PAVAN KUMAR H HUBBALLI, DHNS

Officials of the customs field formations and directorate of revenue intelligence (DRI) under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) have seized 10,202 kg of gold worth Rs 5,867 crore at the 22 international airports in the country over the last five years.

Nearly 25% of the total confiscation of illegal gold being smuggled into India was at Mumbai airport (2,578.4 kg worth Rs 1,460 cr) followed by Delhi (1,370.96 kg; Rs 742 cr), Chennai (1,274.25 kg; Rs 676 cr) and Calicut (1,159.11 kg; Rs 591 cr).

Karnataka, which has two international airports in Mangaluru and Bengaluru, saw the recovery of 135.85 kg (worth Rs 75 cr) and 441.58 kg of gold (worth Rs 263 cr), respectively, in the last five years.

Cases decline

According to a statement by the finance ministry in parliament recently, there has been a decline in smuggling of the precious yellow metal into India since 2024-25.



A file photo of gold in paste form which was seized by the customs officials at the Kempegowda international gold in Bengaluru.

Data shows that customs officials seized the highest illegal gold consignments in 2023-24.

The CBIC, as per the reply in Rajya Sabha, attributes the confiscation of such huge consignment of gold to constant vigil and by taking operational measures based on intelligence, passenger profiling with the aid of Advance Passenger Information System (APIS), risk-based interdiction and targeting, non-intrusive inspection like baggage scanning; rummaging

of carriers, including aircrafts, and coordination with other agencies.

Customs officials have arrested 5,689 people across India in gold smuggling cases during this period. However, only 16 people have been convicted for the crime in the last five years.

One of the main reasons for poor conviction, according to officials, is the lengthy legal process, where the accused persons can approach higher courts.

Narayanaswamy G, retired prin-

cial additional director general of the National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN), says individuals are allowed to bring with them a certain amount of gold while returning from abroad.

"Men are allowed to carry gold worth Rs 50,000, while women can bring gold worth Rs 1 lakh as free allowance, if they have stayed abroad for more than one year. If they carry more gold than the free allowance and declare it to the customs, they are allowed to carry the same with them after paying 6% customs duty. If the passenger has not fulfilled this criteria, he or she is allowed to carry (reasonable quantity) gold, after the payment of 35% customs duty. Such passengers are allowed to re-export it, if they wish," he says.

"In case of seizure and confiscation of concealed smuggled gold, it is deposited with the mint of Reserve Bank of India, which evaluates the gold and sets aside the money in nationalised banks. If the accused person wins the case, which is highly unlikely, the money is transferred to the person's account. Otherwise, it goes to the government's account," he says.



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Telangana
Speaker begins
trial on BRS MLA
disqualification

HYDERABAD, DHNS: Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar on Monday began conducting a trial under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution on petitions filed by the opposition BRS seeking the disqualification of MLAs who defected to the Congress after the 2023 Assembly polls.

The BRS had filed petitions against 10 such legislators. The Speaker has drawn up a schedule to hear the cases of four of them — T Prakash Goud, Kale Yadaiah, Gudem Mahipal Reddy and Bandla Krishnamohan Reddy—on Monday and Wednesday.

The in-camera hearings commenced with cross-examinations between the counsels of the petitioners and those representing the defected MLAs. The first session saw BRS MLA Kalvakuntla Sanjay being cross-examined by the counsel for Goud, followed by the cross-examination of Chinta Prabhakar by the counsels for Yadaiah and Gudem. The final session in this round will have Palla Rajeshwar Reddy cross-examined by counsel for Bandla. This marks the first instance in the history of the Telangana Legislative Assembly where the Speaker himself is directly conducting hearings on disqualification pleas.

BRS leaders had earlier filed petitions before the Speaker seeking the disqualification of 10 party MLAs who joined the ruling Congress. They subsequently approached the Supreme Court over the Speaker's delay in taking a decision.



Mukhi, the first Indian-born cheetah cub, turned two-and-a-half years old, at Kuno National Park, in Madhya Pradesh. PTI

TCS leases
1.75 m sq ft for
Rs 975 crore in
Bengaluru

BENGALURU, DHNS: IT services major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has leased about 17.52 million sq ft of office space at Sattva Knowledge Point in Yeshwantpur for around Rs 975 crore over five years, according to real estate analytics firm Propstack.

TCS will pay a monthly rent of Rs 15.37 crore at a rate of Rs 87.7 per sq ft and has deposited Rs 25 crore as security, the analytics firm said..

“TCS lease stands out as one of Bengaluru's largest, both in scale (1.75 million sq ft) and annual rental commitment, in a year marked by several other significant tech-sector leases. It strengthens Bengaluru's position as a preferred IT hub, with a top IT major making a significant occupancy commitment in a premium development,” said Raja Seetharaman, co-founder, Propstack.

Commerce ministry flags risk to
marine exports from US tariffs

Places India at disadvantage
compared to its competitors

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday told Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) that marine exports are likely to be “negatively” impacted by the 50% US tariff, as it places India at a disadvantage compared to competitors like Ecuador, which faces lower tariffs.

Sources said Special Sec-

retary (Commerce) Rajesh Agarwal told the panel, led by senior Congress MP KC Venugopal, that Indian exporters “could lose ground in this vital sector” unless a bilateral trade deal with the US that lowers tariffs is reached.

He is also reported to have told the panel that the “overall impact” of US tariffs on Indian industry is likely to be “limited” in the immediate term, referring specifically to tariffs on pharmaceuticals.

The issue of the US tariff came up during the PAC meeting while examining officials from the Ministries of Commerce and Industry as well as Finance on the CAG's Performance Audit of the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme, sources said.

According to sources, Agarwal said the situation is “more challenging” for marine exports, especially fish, compared to the pharmaceutical sector. Marine exports face a 50% tariff, placing India at a “disadvantage” compared to competitors like Ecuador.

Against this backdrop, Agarwal said India is simultaneously pursuing diversification of export markets and continuing negotiations with the US, expressing “some

optimism” about reaching an agreement soon. He also told the panel that India has opened up new opportunities through Free Trade Agreements.

Referring to the FTA signed with the European Free Trade Association, covering Switzerland, Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein, sources said he told the panel that it is particularly beneficial for marine exports, offering tariff reductions in the range of 8-12%.

He also said the FTA with the United Kingdom, which is expected to be operationalised early next year, will eliminate 8-12% duty on marine exports to the UK, unlocking access to a five billion pound marine import basket.

On tariffs on pharmaceu-

tical products, he said India's exports to the US are largely in the form of generic formulations, rather than patented drugs or branded generics.

The tariff applies to China as well, which neutralises any relative disadvantage for India. However, in the longer run, he warned that high tariffs are never good for trade, as they can gradually erode competitiveness, dampen export growth, and complicate negotiations.

He added that the government's stated objective is to safeguard domestic sectors such as agriculture and other sensitive industries, while simultaneously expanding export opportunities for Indian pharmaceuticals and other industries.

India, Bhutan to
connect by rail
for first time

Rs 4,033-cr project
to connect Assam &
Bengal with Bhutan

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India and Bhutan on Monday announced a landmark initiative to establish rail connectivity between the two countries, marking Bhutan's first cross-border railway project.

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, along with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, announced plans to construct two new rail links totalling 89 km between India and Bhutan: Kokrajhar–Gelephu (Assam) and Banarhat–Samtse (West Bengal), at a cost of Rs 4,033 crore.

The Kokrajhar–Gelephu line, with an investment of Rs 3,456 crore, will connect Assam's Kokrajhar and Chirang districts with Bhutan's Sarpang region. The project is expected to be completed within the next four years. Gelephu is being developed as a “mindfulness city” under Bhutan's plans.

The Banarhat–Samtse line will link West Bengal's Jalpaiguri district with Bhutan's Samtse. With an investment of Rs 577 crore, this line is expected to be completed within three years.

The Samtse region is being developed as an industrial

hub by the Bhutan government.

The total investment for the two railway lines between India and Bhutan will be made by the Indian government.

In essence, by constructing this new track, Bhutan will gain access to 150,000 km of India's railway network. This highlights the significant advantage of the network effect, Vaishnaw said.

“India is the largest trading partner of Bhutan, and most of Bhutan's exempt trade is conducted through Indian ports. Seamless rail connectivity will also help the Bhutanese economy grow and provide people with better access to the global network,” said Vaishnaw.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bhutan in March 2024, both countries agreed to establish two rail links between India and Bhutan.

On India's role in Bhutan's development, Misri emphasised, “The Government of India has been Bhutan's largest provider of developmental assistance and has played a vital role in its modernisation, especially in infrastructure and the overall economic development of the country.”

“For the 13th five-year plan of Bhutan, which runs from 2024 to 2029, the Government of India has committed support of Rs 10,000 crore. And this quantum constitutes a 100% increase over the 12th five-year plan figures,” Misri added.

HIGHWAY HALT



Police personnel stand near the waterlogged portion of Solapur-Bijapur highway as swollen Sina river floods nearby areas, in Solapur, Maharashtra, on Monday. PTI

Investigators await evidence
from S'pore in Zubeen case

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Did Zubeen Garg drown in the sea in Singapore, or was it a murder is the question in most people's minds.

Investigators in Assam are not ruling out the murder angle as they wait for evidence in Singapore and the reports of the two postmortems.

The mystery surrounding the exact cause leading to Zubeen's death deepened with Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma stating that the viscera samples are being examined to ascertain if the singer was poisoned.

“Be it a death or a murder, the investigators will go deeper into the reason and punish

those responsible for the reasons leading to his untimely death,” Sarma said.

The state government formed a nine-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) under the CID days after the 52-year-old icon died while swimming with friends and associates in Singapore on September 19.

Garg was in Singapore to take part in the Northeast Festival organised by Shyamkanu Mahanta, an Assam-based entrepreneur.

In her complaint, Garg's wife, Garima, questioned why the singer was allowed to go to the sea despite his poor health condition.

She wanted an investigation into all those who were with Zubeen during the inci-

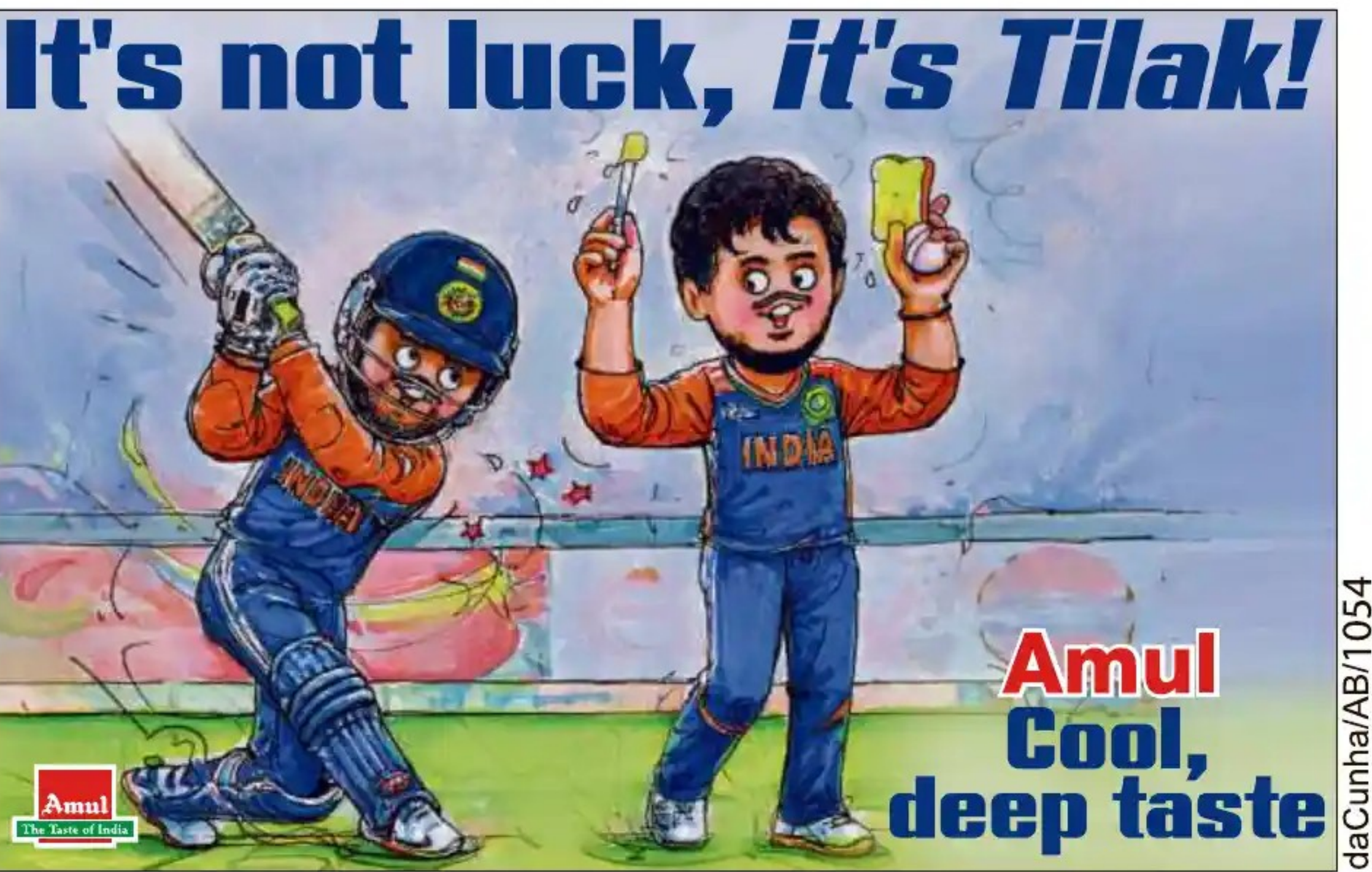
dent.

Members of the Assam Association Singapore had hired a yacht for a party on the sea, in which his manager Siddarth Sharma and his associates were also present.

There are also allegations of financial anomalies involving Sharma and Mahanta.

Lookout notices have been issued against the duo.

Sarma on Tuesday said the state government wrote to the MHA to invoke the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with Singapore. “Once invoked, this will ensure full cooperation from Singaporean authorities, giving us access to case details and assistance to bring back the accused and secure justice,” Sarma posted on X.



UP village tense after students
made to write religious slogan

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Amid the ongoing controversy over ‘I love Muhammad’ posters, a teacher at a school in Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur district allegedly forced some Hindu students to write the slogan ‘I love Muhammad’.

According to reports, the teacher at a private school in Banveerpur village made the Hindu students write the slogan under the pretext of a slogan competition a few days ago.

The matter came to light on Monday after the parents of the Hindu students filed a complaint with the police. Reports also stated that the Hindu students were allegedly made to write a paragraph on the slogan.

Tension prevailed in the village after the students narrated the incident to their parents. A large number of residents gathered at the school to protest.

The school management,

however, said that it had no knowledge of the matter and that the teacher might have organised the competition on her own.

Police said a case has been registered in connection with the incident, and statements have been recorded from school management representatives, teachers, students, and parents. “The matter is being investigated,” said a police official in Sitapur.

District education officials said the female teacher in question has been asked to explain the matter and is being shifted from the school.

Posters bearing the slogan ‘I love Muhammad’ appeared in several UP towns, prompting police action. In Bareilly, violence erupted on Friday after members of the Muslim community took to the streets to protest the police crackdown.

Police later arrested prominent Muslim cleric Maulana Touqir Raza.

Police probe conspiracy; cleric's
aide among 29 held

Police on Monday arrested 29 more people, including a close aide of cleric Tauqeer Raza Khan, in connection with last week's violence in Bareilly after Friday prayers, even as internet suspension in the district was extended till Tuesday midnight, officials said.

A market adjoining the Pahalwan Shah shrine was sealed on Monday. The market, allegedly run by Khan's organisation, was vacated after an announcement in the morning, warning that bulldozer action would follow if shops were not emptied by 3 pm.

'I Love Muhammad' rangoli
triggers clashes in Maha, 1 held

MUMBAI, DHNS: The ‘I Love Muhammed’ controversy had its echo in Maharashtra's Ahilyanagar town when a graffiti appeared on a roadside rangoli, sparking protests by the Muslim community and stone-pelting, leading to lathicharge on Monday.

One person responsible for making the rangoli has been arrested.

The protesters blocked the arterial Ahilyanagar-Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar Road despite the police action.

“We used force to maintain law and order. Police are taking action against the accused persons. The situation is under control. People must not believe in rumours,” Ahilyanagar SP Somnath Garge said.

After the stone-pelting,

more than 30 people have been rounded up by the police.

Reacting to the incident, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said, “We will have to see if there is a conspiracy behind this. We also need to see who is trying to spoil the social environment. Is anyone trying to polarise us in the same way that was attempted during the Lok Sabha elections? Everyone has the right to practice their religion, but it is wrong to create tension among people in this way,” Fadnis, who is the state Home Minister, told reporters in Yavatmal.

Samajwadi Party's Maharashtra unit chief Abu Asim Azmi said that there should be a strict law to combat insult to a religion.

Bishnoi forayed into world of crime as student in 2010

CHANDIGARH, PTI: Incarcerated gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, a product of a gangster-terror network nexus, had forayed into the world of crime when he was a student at the Panjab University in 2010.

Bishnoi, now aged 32, had opened fire at a rival contestant during the student body polls at the university, for which he spent three months in jail. He is a product of a gangster-terror network nexus and has been named by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in several high-profile cases.

Notably, Canada on Monday said it has listed the Bishnoi Gang as a terrorist entity for creating a “climate of fear and intimidation”.

According to police records,



Lawrence Bishnoi

Bishnoi graduated in law from Chandigarh.

In a bid to dismantle the gangster-terror network associated with the Babbar Khalsa International, the NIA named Bishnoi in a chargesheet more than two years ago in a terror case, detailing his criminal activities, and smuggling of weapons, explosives and drugs from Pakistan.

The anti-terror agency had

claimed that Bishnoi was instrumental in coordinating communication channels, enabling seamless interactions among gang members, even those incarcerated in jails.

It further claimed that he was running an extortion syndicate with Canada-based gangster Goldy Brar, who has close links with pro-Khalistan terror outfit Babbar Khalsa International (BKI).

Bishnoi, who has been in custody for more than a decade, has been operating his terror-crime syndicate from jails wherever he has been lodged over the years. He is currently lodged in a Gujarat prison.

Lawrence Bishnoi was just five years old when the infamous blackbuck poaching case

involving actor Salman Khan took place in 1998 during the filming of *Hum Saath-Saath Hain* in Rajasthan, irking the Bishnoi community.

According to the police, the animosity between the gangster and Salman first became public in 2018 when Bishnoi, during a court appearance in Jodhpur, said, “We will kill Salman Khan. Everyone will know once we take action...” Since then, the actor has received multiple threats to his life.

Despite being in prison, Bishnoi has allegedly managed to execute murders of many high-profile people, including Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala in 2022 and Karni Sena chief Sukhdev Singh Gogamedi in 2023.

BJP may drop over a dozen
legislators in Bihar

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amid reports of growing anti-incumbency sentiment against several legislators, the BJP is expected to drop more than a dozen MLAs in Bihar as it prepares for the upcoming Assembly elections.

During a meeting chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah last week, it was felt that new faces could yield better results. Party sources said discussions were held on over 150 seats, and names will be announced once the poll schedule is published by the Election Commission.

BJP leaders said seats in Seemanchal, Bettiah, Samastipur, and Araria are almost finalised.

In earlier meetings, BJP leaders had deliberated on

39 seats, where the win or loss margin was less than 10,000 votes in the last Assembly polls.

For instance, in seats like Arrah, Barhara, Munger, Begusarai, Badhwar, Hajipur, Amnour, Pranpur and Parihar, the BJP's win margin was below 5,000 votes.

Additionally, in over 18 seats, the BJP lost by 10,000 votes, among which, in over 9 seats, the win margin was less than 5,000.

The party is also toying with the idea of fielding some of its former as well as sitting MPs. One of the names doing the rounds is that of Rajiv Pratap Rudy, who had recently been in the news for winning the post of president in the elections at Delhi's Constitution Club with the help of Opposition MPs.

Final Bihar voter list to be out today

NEW DELHI, PTI: The final electoral roll of Bihar is set to be published on Tuesday, with the Election Commission likely to follow it up with the announcement of the poll schedule of the key state next week.

The poll authority is visiting Patna on October 4 and 5 to take stock of the poll preparedness.

The schedule for the Assembly elections is likely to be announced next week, sources said.

The first phase of the elections is likely to be held soon after the Chhath festival in late October.

Four hundred seventy observers are being deployed by the EC for Bihar and some assembly bypolls.

Sack, arrest
Bihar dyCM:
Kishor to Nitish

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Poll strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor on Monday demanded that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar sack and arrest his deputy CM Samrat Choudhary, alleging that Choudhary is a convict in a murder case.

Kishor said Choudhary was let off due to his false affidavit claiming he was a minor.

“We will seek an appointment with Governor Arif Mohammad Khan on Tuesday to demand that the deputy CM be not only dismissed but also arrested in connection with the 1995 Tarapur murder case. He was not merely an accused; he was a convict who misled the Supreme Court and obtained relief by claiming he was only 14 years old at the time of the crime,” he said.

Choudhary's 2020 election affidavit states that he was 51 years old, which means he would have been in his mid-20s in 1995, Kishor added.



Prashant Kishor

BSF unveils Decision Support System to boost operations

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The BSF on Monday unveiled the Decision Support System (DSS) designed to enhance the decision-making capability of commanders at all levels.

The new system will help commanders to plan and execute operations based on informed decision-making through role-based access to the system via custom-de-

signed dashboards.

Apart from providing advanced GIS functionalities, the DSS integrates the GIS platform with legacy operations, the incident database, and sensor feeds from the border, forming a Complete Operating Picture (COP) at the BSF headquarters, a statement said.

The DSS will operationally benefit BSF with facilities of monitoring, predictive and trend analysis, which

will further enhance the capabilities of effective border management.

The system would be capable of performing AI/ML-based operations on GIS & Legacy data for predicting smuggling hotspots, infiltration routes, etc, for better resource allocation and operational planning and execution, it said.

The DSS will be integrated with CIBMS, other command centres of the BSF, and also with GIS platforms

of other security forces and organisations in the future.

There are also plans to integrate applications with the DSS for real-time data collection and incident reporting.

“The DSS will improve the BSF's capabilities, enabling it to safeguard India's borders and protect the national interests effectively, by helping commanders in decision-making,” the statement added.



India’s isolation tests its foreign policy

A nation’s foreign policy defines, at once, the nation and its relations with the world. It is a blueprint for bilateral and multilateral engagement, which ensures the nation’s interests and principles are best served. This is imperative in a diverse and shifting world. Soon after Independence, India framed its foreign policy based on the principles of non-alignment, which was the right path to take in a world divided into two Cold War camps. It also earned the country friends and respect across continents, and importantly, made its people proud of its stature in the world. But now, India’s foreign policy is facing its strongest challenge. The policy no longer helps India protect its interests, the ideas that guide it are contentious, and it has not earned the country many friends.

The issues were, ironically, illustrated in the wake of Operation Sindoor, which India undertook to punish Pakistan in response to the Pahalgam killings. That a third party – US President Donald Trump – announced the ceasefire between the two countries and even took credit for the truce did not raise India’s stature. India did not have much international support during the conflict or after, on the global stage. In another serious setback, it became a special target of President Trump’s tariff war. Some of the principles that always informed the country’s foreign policy, such as commitment to justice and empathy for the oppressed, are no longer its major guiding forces. It has strayed from its principled position on Palestine and has refused to condemn Israel’s genocide in Gaza in clear terms. That would amount to complicity in the worst humanitarian crime in the world now. India’s relations with most of its neighbours range from hostile to poor to strained; its newly forged cordiality with China is a result of circumstances and is unpredictable.

The contrast with the past is clear. India once enjoyed goodwill and friendship with much of the world and was looked upon as a leader, even when it was a poor and underdeveloped country. It has the world’s third-largest economy and is now a significant military power. These achievements have not translated into the elevated stature of a global leader. Every Prime Minister who held the office for a significant time, from Jawaharlal Nehru to Atal Behari Vajpayee to Manmohan Singh, contributed to India’s global standing. When a country fails to mobilise global support in times of adversity, when it is unable to protect its interests even with its economic and military might, it points to a faltering foreign policy.

Guiding principles have seen a shift; economic might has not assured global backing during crises

Boycott will dilute survey’s purpose

BJP MP Tejasvi Surya’s call to boycott Karnataka’s Social and Educational Survey – denouncing it as a “Siddaramaiah census” and refusing to share his own details – is much more than a mere political posture. This position is at odds with the real purpose of the survey and betrays a deep-seated urban bias. The state government has repeatedly clarified that this is not a caste census in the conventional sense, but a socio-educational survey aimed at generating reliable data on the backwardness of communities. The objective is to identify groups that have not adequately benefited from welfare schemes, and to better target future interventions. Caste, of course, remains an unavoidable reference, but it is a by-product, not the driving purpose. How else can the state know which communities are backward? Compounding the problem, BJP’s state president BY Vijayendra has urged respondents to list themselves simply as “Hindu” rather than specify the caste, even though the survey is not designed to enumerate religion. Such irresponsible and misleading remarks cast doubts on the party’s commitment to social justice.

The Karnataka High Court’s directive that participation must be voluntary has been seized by the entitled class as a convenient excuse to justify boycotts. This confusion could have been avoided had the court been guided by the Supreme Court’s verdict in *State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh* (2020). The apex court held that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not homogeneous groups, and states can create sub-classifications to ensure fair distribution of reservation benefits. The judgement made it clear that without “quantifiable and demonstrable” data on the relative backwardness of different groups, affirmative action risks becoming monopolised by dominant sub-castes. Just as the Supreme Court insisted on fresh data to ensure equity within SC/ST communities, a comprehensive social and educational survey would give the Karnataka government the empirical data to recalibrate welfare schemes, preventing already empowered groups from cornering benefits at the cost of smaller, poorer castes.

The government is not without blame; its failure to effectively communicate the aims of the survey has allowed rumours to take root. Far from being divisive, this is an exercise in ensuring social justice. If the marginalised are misled into boycotting, it will be at their own peril, as their backwardness will not be captured. The survey must not be caricatured into identity politics or communal battle lines. Let the survey speak, so that neglected communities may finally claim their rightful place in public policy. To boycott it through elite gatekeeping is to silence the very voices that most need to be heard.

Empirical data is critical to ensure that the benefits of welfare schemes reach the truly deserving

OPTICS OF WAR

Palestine needs more than a stamp of statehood

Western powers are recognising the state of Palestine, but rhetoric without intent cannot bring real peace

VISHAL R CHORADIYA

The recent decision by the United Kingdom, France, Canada, and Australia to recognise the state of Palestine is being hailed as a historic turning point. But history will likely record it as little more than symbolism unless it is matched by decisive action. Recognition without consequences for Israel’s genocide in Gaza and land theft in the West Bank changes nothing.

For decades, these same governments have gone out of their way to defend Israel, often repeating its propaganda even as evidence of war crimes piled up. Since October 7, 2023, their leaders echoed Israel’s “right to defend itself”, as though this erased the images of tens of thousands killed, neighbourhoods levelled, and hospitals reduced to rubble.

In London, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak declared, within days of the Hamas attack, that Britain stood with Israel “not just today, not just tomorrow, but always”. In Paris, Emmanuel Macron insisted that “Israel has the right to defend itself, and it is legitimate”. Canada’s Justin Trudeau warned that criticism of Israel’s military campaign risked “fuelling antisemitism”, while his government approved military export permits as bombs fell on Gaza. Australia’s Anthony Albanese similarly emphasised Israel’s “right to defend itself” while his foreign minister dismissed calls for an arms embargo.

Such rhetoric not only provided cover for Israel’s crimes, but also entrenched a false equivalence between a besieged and occupied people, and one of the world’s most heavily armed states backed by Washington. By endlessly invoking Israel’s right to self-defence, these governments erased the rights of Palestinians under occupation, including their right to resist dispossession and extermination.

Meanwhile, Israeli expansionism has only accelerated. Since its first West Bank settlement after the 1967 war, Israel has established more than 160 settlements across the West Bank and occupied East Jerusalem, now housing about 700,000 settlers – all

illegal under international law. Even during its war on Gaza, it advanced plans for thousands of settler homes, threatening what little territorial continuity remains. And in July 2025, the Knesset backed a motion calling for annexation of the West Bank, a move widely condemned as a clear violation of international law.

The Zionist ideology driving this has always been expansionist. In the early 20th century, it established towns, colonies, and financial institutions to funnel Jewish capital into Palestine, laying the foundations of a Jewish state across Palestine. Land acquisition was seen as the key to statehood and pursued with ruth-



less intent. Dispossession was not incidental; it was the objective. That legacy continues in the destruction of villages, forced evictions in East Jerusalem, and the encirclement of the West Bank.

If Western powers that now recognise Palestine were serious, they would confront this ideology. They would disavow Zionism as the engine of settler-colonial expansion and impose sanctions until Israel halts settlement construction, dismantles the colonies, and ends the blockade of Gaza. They would suspend all arms sales and military cooperation, as they did with Russia after it invaded Ukraine.

Instead, they have refused even the most minimal steps. London and Paris have introduced limited suspensions but continue to authorise other defence exports to Israel. Ottawa froze new permits in 2024, but the scope of its restrictions is being debated. Canberra has kept up security and defence ties, including intelligence exchanges, though rarely admitting them in public. At the UN, these same governments abstained or voted against resolutions calling for a ceasefire and accountability, shielding

Israel from meaningful censure as the devastation mounted in Gaza.

Sovereignty beyond tokenism

These governments argue that recognition of Palestine keeps alive the “two-state solution”. But their failure to act gives Israel free rein to destroy the very possibility of such a solution. What kind of Palestinian state can exist when the West Bank is fragmented into isolated enclaves connected only by Israeli-controlled checkpoints, when its water resources are expropriated, when its land is carved apart by settlements and settler-only roads?

Israel itself has made clear that it will never permit Palestinian sovereignty. Netanyahu declared weeks ago that “there will never be a Palestinian state”. His coalition, dominated by ultranationalists, insists on annexation. Israel has pledged to expand its settlement enterprise further.

Western governments know this. They also know that without sanctions, Israel has no reason to stop. Yet, they continue to issue statements about international law while refusing to enforce it. Recognition of Palestine under these conditions is no strategy for justice. It is a concession to outrage, a way to placate domestic audiences horrified by Gaza’s images without jeopardising ties with Tel Aviv or Washington.

And Washington remains the key. The United States continues to bankroll Israel’s war machine, providing billions in aid and using its veto at the UN Security Council to block even the mildest calls for an immediate ceasefire. Just days ago, it wielded that veto again for the sixth time, ensuring that the slaughter in Gaza would continue unchecked. Israel acts with impunity because it knows it has unconditional American backing. So long as that remains the case, Britain, France, Canada, and Australia’s gestures will change nothing.

Palestinians are not asking for token recognition. They are demanding freedom, sovereignty, and the end of occupation. Unless Western powers are prepared to defend Palestine’s right to defend itself with the same zeal they defended Israel’s genocide, their hypocrisy will remain exposed. The recognition of Palestine may be historic in one sense – these countries spent decades backing Israel – but history will not be kind to those who offered symbolism while a people were destroyed.

(The writer is an assistant professor with the Department of Professional Studies, Christ University, Bengaluru)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Nothing, just WhatsApp...

Tread the middle path to keep the fragile peace of digital camaraderie

SHARADA PRAHLADRAO

Wars are raging constantly – over geopolitics, tariffs, land acquisition, or technology. And then there is the war within: the battles of morality, ethics, and conscience. But a new warzone has suddenly emerged: WhatsApp. Quick to communicate and easier to disassociate! If you are part of a group, you are doomed; and if you’re the hapless ‘admin’, you have to tread on egos as fragile as eggshells.

On my morning walk, I passed by a group in animated conversation. The bone of contention? A member of their WhatsApp group had bought designer outfits at discounted rates and hadn’t breathed a word about it. The tirade: Why didn’t she tell us about the sale? She sends so many forwards daily, but not a mention of this.

I received collective glares when

I ventured that perhaps she wanted exclusivity. A few hundred steps later, I encountered the reverse scenario. Here the grouse was about a member who constantly floods the group with pictures, clogging up storage space.

The gripe: Does she think her daily routine is so exciting that we must see it all – feeding her dog, watering the plants, or making parathas? And those endless good morning and good night forwards. Every day I have to delete at least 50 pictures. She ought to understand. When I posted my Switzerland trip photos, she replied with just an emoji!

After decades, a long-lost college friend sent me a WhatsApp message. I took a few days to respond – it was only a no-rush, ‘nice-to-reconnect’ kind of message. But the delay angered her. In her mind, WhatsApp messages deserved instant replies. Result: we are no longer friends! Another acquaintance of mine calls from different numbers and locations. If I don’t pick up because it is an unknown caller, the WhatsApp bombardment begins. I end up retreating into a war-zone shelter and cutting

off communications.

There are all kinds of groups on WhatsApp – school, college, extended family, apartment, and then smaller ones splintering within. In theory, they are ideal for sharing useful information and fostering camaraderie. In reality, it’s just an imagined utopia. A family friend insists that the worst of the lot is the apartment group. Initially, everything is smooth, with polite exchanges and a benevolent facade. But give it a few months, and the masks come off.

The diatribe: He hasn’t paid maintenance for two months. Garbage clearance is his responsibility. The building needs painting, but funds are short. There is seepage from the flat upstairs; the owner should pay, and so on. And suddenly in the midst of all, one chimes in: Where can I get copper vessels? Do you know a good plumber?

Checking and responding to messages can become addictive. Whether you respond with enthusiasm or indifference, fingers will point at you. Perhaps the safest way is to choose the middle path: When a friend asks, “What’s up?” “Nothing, just WhatsApp,” I reply.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Public safety is non-negotiable

The tragic stampede at Vijay’s rally in Karur is a grim reminder that charisma cannot replace caution. Political aspirations must never outweigh public safety. How many more lives must we lose before crowd control becomes a priority? It is time for leaders, organisers, and authorities to collaborate responsibly. Enthusiasm must

be met with infrastructure, planning, and humanity. Public gatherings should inspire hope, not end in horror. Let this not be another fleeting headline but a wake-up call for change. Leadership is not just about drawing crowds but protecting them. **Vijaykumar H K, Raichur**

The ‘atmanirbhar’ myth

This is with reference to ‘Towards a genuine Atmanirbhar Bharat’ (Sep 29). The concept of ‘atmanirbhar’ itself is a myth, and no nation can become atmanirbhar. Natural resources are neither uniformly distributed across the globe nor do they conform to the political borders. We simply cannot produce all that we want. This is true with every country. Therefore, export what is excess and import what is short. We are all interdependent — “Par-aspar Nirbhar”. **Laxman Gorlakatte, Mysuru**

Well played!

Apropos ‘Indians invincible’ (Sep 29), kudos to the team on an unforgettable performance. The Indian team displayed exceptional grit and composure in securing that Asia Cup victory. Tilak Varma’s match-winning knock, especially after the early collapse, was a masterclass in strategic batting and mental fortitude. **K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru**

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender’s postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

... Everyone will be held accountable, the time has come, the public decides, the public will settle the accounts, the public will form the NDA government again.



Samrat Choudhary, Bihar Dy CM

An election is coming. Universal peace is declared, and the foxes have a sincere interest in prolonging the lives of the poultry.

George Eliot

TO BE PRECISE



IN PERSPECTIVE

When spectacle politics turns deadly

The Karur stampede exposes a fumbling leader and his ill-prepared party. But what about preventive checks and policing?

P JOHN KENNEDY

The killer stampede at actor-politician Vijay’s rally in Karur, on Saturday, is one of the worst political tragedies of recent times. Forty-one people, including women and children, have died. This was not fate, not an unforeseeable accident, but a man-made disaster caused by negligence, vanity, and the reckless conflation of cinema glamour with political ambition. The grief is immeasurable, but what makes it especially unbearable is the sheer absence of responsibility and accountability.

The writing was on the wall well before Karur. Vijay’s two earlier rallies had witnessed chaotic, unmanageable crowds; yet, the risky pattern was repeated with no corrective action. Supporters arrived early in the morning, camping without water or food, and by noon, the venue was packed, and crowd control was clearly inadequate. Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), Vijay’s fledgling party, has been exposed for its lack of preparedness most tragically and predictably. Politics is not cinema; it demands structure, foresight, and discipline, not stardom and spontaneity. To host a rally without protocols, emergency plans, or medical support is not oversight but reckless negligence, which has proven fatal.

Vijay’s late arrival only worsened matters, turning restlessness into a dangerous surge as fans pressed forward for a glimpse of the star-turned-politician. When tragedy struck and bodies of men, women, and children lay lifeless, he left Karur for Chennai without meeting grieving families, issuing a flat statement of condolence nearly four hours later. For a man who commands such emotional devotion, his detachment was telling. In politics, presence matters more than words, and accountability more than money. His offer of Rs 20 lakh per family may calm anger briefly, but money is neither justice nor repentance. Worse still was his claim that the tragedy was “beyond his imagination”.

India has witnessed countless stampedes at political and religious gatherings; to feign surprise is dishonest and an insult to public memory. The Karur tragedy is more than failed crowd control; it exposes the deeper culture of cinema-driven politics in Tamil Nadu. Vijay still behaves like a film star, seeking applause instead of shouldering responsibility. His unruly, idol-struck fans reveal the dangers of celebrity politics,

where mass frenzy replaces civic discipline. A true leader must not just draw crowds but also manage and protect them. By that measure, Vijay remains half an actor, not yet a leader.

Crowds are not achievements, nor does turnout guarantee political success. When leaders equate rally size with strength, treating gatherings like weekend box-office releases, they invite the very disasters we saw in Karur. Vijay’s choreographed mega-meetings drew more from a movie-release script than a political playbook, and the pursuit of spectacle has turned deadly.

State can’t evade responsibility

The Tamil Nadu government, too, cannot quietly step aside as if this were simply a party affair gone wrong. Chief Minister M K Stalin’s swift visit to Karur was commendable, and relief measures were quickly announced. However, the larger question remains: why was such an ill-prepared gathering permitted in the first place? Where were the adequate barricades, the preventive police presence, the safety regulations that any responsible administration ought to enforce? The state cannot wash its hands of responsibility in tragedies like these by waving the cheque book. Preventive governance failed, just as Vijay’s party failed. Both stand guilty of negligence.

The Karur disaster is an indictment of an emerging political career that has failed its very first test of leadership. Lives that gather in your name are lives entrusted to your care. Vijay has enjoyed the applause of millions on screen, but applause in politics is no achievement at all. He chose the stage of politics; he cannot now behave like a performer walking off after a show gone wrong, leaving others to pick up the bodies.

And what of the public? Families who bring children to impossibly overcrowded rallies and fans who suspend common sense in their devotion to celebrities must also reflect. The culture of blind adulation for film stars has reached a dangerous limit when it overrides even self-preservation.

Whether Karur becomes a turning point or merely another page in India’s long list of forgotten tragedies depends on what happens next. The lives lost cannot be reduced to compensation tables and enquiry reports that gather dust. Accountability must be fixed – on the party that failed to manage its own crowds, the state that failed to monitor public safety, and the star whose political ambitions have already left coffins in their wake. Politics cannot be built on the corpses of the faithful.

(The writer is an educator and political analyst based in Bengaluru)

The transformative power of translation in a multilingual world

VIJI THIYAGARAJAN

When Rabindranath Tagore received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913, he reflected on the unlikely journey that brought his poetry to the West. Tagore had translated *Gitanjali* from Bengali to English almost hesitantly, “being diffident of his mastery of that language” and never intending to publish it. Yet, when the translated version reached British readers, they were embraced instantly, earning him global recognition.

For Tagore, it felt like a miracle that verses born in the quiet solitude of Bengal resonated so deeply with the West. Tagore’s acceptance speech is a timeless reminder of the transformative role of translation. It bridges distances and allows cultures to recognise the universality of the human spirit.

Translated literary works are unifying the world globally. By carrying stories beyond native tongues, they continue to deepen mutual understanding among nations and

people, reminding us that human experiences are universal, even when languages differ.

Translations are about the survival of languages, ideas, and cultures. Every month, the world loses two indigenous languages, along with the unique knowledge they carry. Out of nearly 7,000 languages spoken globally, only about 7% appear in print, with fewer still online. Just 500 spoken and signed languages have any online presence, while 75% of internet users engage in only ten languages.

In an increasingly interconnected world, language remains a formidable barrier. Consider an overseas patient in India relying on an interpreter for medical instructions or someone navigating judicial documents in an unfamiliar language. In such cases, translators and interpreters are far more than facilitators; they are lifelines that keep dialogue alive.

The role of translation extends far beyond individuals. Businesses, governments, and institutions depend on multilingual

communication to engage diverse audiences. The global translation market is projected to surpass \$45 billion, fuelled by the growing need to connect across cultures.

India has taken significant steps to preserve its linguistic diversity. It is the only country to officially recognise 11 classical languages, with the government supporting research and translation by setting up specialised institutes.

Digital technology is playing a big role in breaking language barriers. Through initiatives like the DIKSHA platform and the National Digital Library, educational content is now available in 133 languages. Meanwhile, the National Translation Mission aims to establish translation as an industry in India. Together, these initiatives highlight the country’s commitment to making knowledge inclusive and accessible.

Cultural diplomacy

Since 1913, when Rabindranath Tagore became the first non-European to receive

the Nobel Prize in Literature, translations have played a vital role in bringing Indian literature to the global stage. Geetanjali Shree’s *Tomb of Sand* became the first Hindi novel to win the International Booker Prize, while this year, Banu Mushtaq’s *Heart Lamp*, translated from Kannada, received the award.

Translators like Deepa Bhashti and Jerry Pinto have become cultural ambassadors, ensuring Indian voices reach worldwide. Publishers like Zubaan and Fly on the Wall Press champion translations, giving regional literature the space it deserves.

As a result, the world is discovering India’s literary richness – from Perumal Murugan and Sachin Kundalkar to the classics of Premchand and Mahasweta Devi.

The British Council has long championed cross-cultural exchange through translations, publishing, and libraries for making literature and learning accessible globally. The India-UK Publishing Fellowship brings together independent publish-

ers from both countries, fostering dialogue and professional growth.

Initiatives like PEN Translates, which encourages translations of Indian literature for UK publishers, open pathways for writers. Festivals like Edinburgh and Hay have hosted authors such as Nabaneeta Dev Sen and Srijato, while six translators representing four Indian languages won recognition through PEN Presents. As part of India/UK Together, a Season of Culture, Bee Books, and UNTOLD UK published a collection of stories from Assam by debut authors and translators. Beyond festivals and fellowships, the British Council’s Digital Library continues to serve as a bridge, offering access to over 7,000 newspapers and magazines, with auto-translation into 18 languages, plus 23,000 books and over 2,500 audiobooks and e-books. Reading options beyond English ensure inclusive access.

Translations in the digital era

The rise of e-books, audiobooks, and mul-

timedia content has changed how we approach translation. Digital technologies capture linguistic diversity in new ways, while tools like computer-assisted translation (CAT) cut time and cost. Collaborative efforts, like TED’s Open Translation Project, show how volunteers create large-scale, high-quality translations. Closer home, India has launched Adi Vaani, an AI-powered translator for tribal languages. Meanwhile, the BhashaSetu challenge promotes AI- and ML-powered real-time translation solutions for Indian languages.

These are seminal contributions in bridging a world divided by languages. Just as Tagore’s translations of *Gitanjali* once carried Bengal’s spirit to the West, today’s translations continue that legacy of bridging worlds, preserving voices and reminding us that human experiences remain universal, even when spoken in different tongues.

(The writer is Director-Libraries, South Asia, British Council)

Fears of US surveillance drove Xi Jinping, China’s leader, to elevate the agency and put it at the centre of his cyber ambitions

CHRIS BUCKLEY AND ADAM GOLDMAN

United States officials were alarmed in 2023 when they discovered that Chinese State-controlled hackers had infiltrated critical US infrastructure with malicious code that could wreck power grids, communications systems, and water supplies. The threat was serious enough that William Burns, the director of the CIA, made a secret trip to Beijing to confront his Chinese counterpart.

He warned China’s minister of state security that there would be “serious consequences” for Beijing if it unleashed the malware. The tone of the meeting, details of which have not been previously reported, was professional and it appeared the message was delivered.

But since that meeting, which was described by two former US officials, China’s intrusions have only escalated. (The former officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the sensitive meeting.)

US and European officials say China’s Ministry of State Security, the civilian spy agency often called the MSS, in particular, has emerged as the driving force behind China’s most sophisticated cyber operations.

In recent disclosures, officials revealed another immense, years-long intrusion by hackers who have been collectively called Salt Typhoon, one that may have stolen information about nearly every American and targeted dozens of other countries. Some countries hit by Salt Typhoon warned in an unusual statement that the data stolen could provide Chinese intelligence services with the capability to “identify and track their targets’ communications and movements around the world.”

The attack underscored how the MSS has evolved into a formidable cyberespionage agency capable of audacious operations that can evade detection for years, experts said.

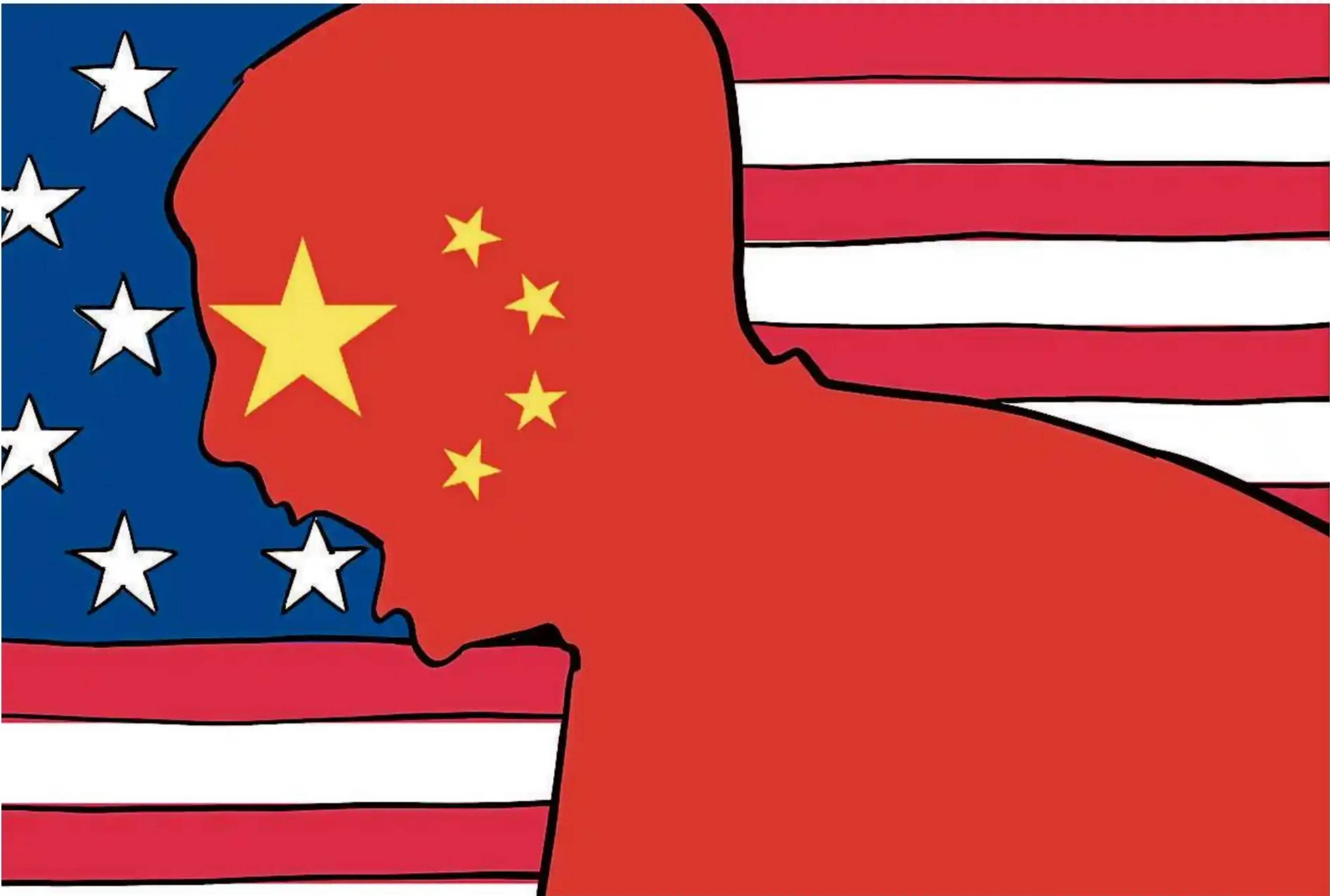
For decades, China has used for-hire hackers to break into computer networks and systems. These operatives sometimes mixed espionage with commercial data theft or were sloppy, exposing their presence. In the recent operation by Salt Typhoon, however, intruders linked to the MSS found weaknesses in systems, burrowed into networks, spirited out data, hopped between compromised systems and erased traces of their presence.

“Salt Typhoon shows a highly skilled and strategic side to MSS cyber operations that has been missed with the attention on lower-quality contract hackers,” said Alex Joske, the author of a book on the ministry.

For Washington, the implication of China’s growing capability is clear: In a future conflict, China could put US communications, power and infrastructure at risk.

China’s biggest hacking campaigns have been “strategic operations” intended to intimidate and deter rivals, said Nigel Inkster, a senior adviser for cybersecurity and China at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London.

“If they succeed in remaining on these networks undiscovered, that potentially gives them a significant advantage in the event of a crisis,” said Inkster, formerly director of operations and intelligence in the British Secret Intelligence Service, MI6.



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

How China’s secretive spy agency became a cyber power

“If their presence is — as it has been — discovered, it still exercises a very significant deterrent effect; as in, ‘Look what we could do to you if we wanted.’”

The rise of the MSS

China’s cyber advances reflect decades of investment to try to match, and eventually rival, the US National Security Agency and Britain’s Government Communications Headquarters, or GCHQ.

China’s leaders founded the Ministry of State Security in 1983 mainly to track dissidents and perceived foes of Communist Party rule. The ministry engaged in online espionage but was long overshadowed by the Chinese military, which ran extensive cyberspying operations.

After taking power as China’s top leader in 2012, Xi Jinping moved quickly to reshape the MSS. He seemed unsettled by the threat of US surveillance to China’s security, and in a 2013 speech pointed to the revelations of Edward Snowden, the former US intelligence contractor.

Xi purged the ministry of senior officials accused of corruption and disloyalty. He reined in the hacking role of the Chinese military, elevating the ministry as the country’s primary cyberespionage agency. He put national security at the core of his agenda with new laws and by establishing a new commission.

“At this same time, the intelligence requirements imposed on the security apparatus start to multiply, because Xi wanted to do more things abroad and at home,” said Matthew Brazil, a senior analyst at BluePath Labs who has co-written a history of China’s espionage services.

Since around 2015, the MSS has moved to bring its far-flung provincial offices under tighter central control, said experts. Chen Yixin, the current minister, has demanded that local state security offices follow Beijing’s orders without delay. Security officials, he said on a recent inspection of the northeast, must be both “red and expert” — absolutely loyal to the party while also adept in technology.

“It all essentially means that the Ministry of State Security now sits atop a system in which it can move its pieces all around the chessboard,” said Edward Schwarck, a researcher at the University of Oxford who is writing a dissertation on China’s State security.

Chen was the official who met with Burns in May 2023. He gave nothing away when confronted with the details of the cyber campaign, telling Burns he would let his superiors know about the US concerns, the former officials said.

The Ministry of State Security operates largely in the shadows, its officials rarely seen or named in public. There was one exception: Wu Shizhong, who was a senior official in Bureau 13, the “technical reconnaissance” arm of the ministry.

Wu was unusually visible, turning up at meetings and conferences in his other role as director of the China Information Technology Security Evaluation Centre. Officially, the centre vets digital software and hardware for security vulnerabilities before it can be used in China. Unofficially, foreign officials and experts say, the centre comes under the control of the MSS and provided a direct pipeline of information about vulnerabilities and hacking talent.

Wu has not publicly said he served in the security ministry, but a Chinese university website in 2005 described him as a State security bureau head in a notice about a meeting, and investigations by Crowd Strike and other cybersecurity firms have also described his State security role.

“Wu Shizhong is widely recognised as a leading figure in the creation of MSS cyber capabilities,” said Joske.

In 2013, Wu pointed to two lessons for China: Snowden’s disclosures about American surveillance and the use by the United States of a virus to sabotage Iran’s nuclear facilities. “The core of cyber offense and defence capabilities is technical prowess,” he said, stressing the need to control technologies and exploit their weaknesses. China, he added, should create “a national cyber offense and defence apparatus.”

China’s commercial tech sector boomed in the years that followed, and State security officials learned how to put domestic companies and contractors to work, spotting and exploiting flaws and weak spots in computer systems, several cybersecurity experts said. The US National Security Agency has also hoarded knowledge of software flaws for its own use. But China has an added advantage: It can tap its own tech companies to feed information to the state.

“MSS was successful at improving the talent pipeline and the volume of good offensive hackers they could contract to,” said Dakota Cary, a researcher who focuses on China’s efforts to develop its hacking capabilities at SentinelOne. “This gives them a significant pipeline for offensive tools.”

The New York Times

The ‘Third Act’ of true leadership

SHUKLA BOSE

Recently, I received an award for my “Second Act” — for leaving behind the corner office, boardrooms, and business-class flights and instead running schools for children from the slums. The citation spoke of courage, transformation, and social impact.

But what the organisers did not know is that I have quietly stepped into what I now call my “Third Act”.

My 97-year-old mother, once fiercely independent, is now partially bedridden. I have become her primary caregiver. And of all the roles I have played — CEO, changemaker, educator — this is by far the most emotionally demanding, and perhaps the most profound.

In my “First Act”, I led through strategy, targets, and performance. In my “Second”, through empathy, vision, and purpose. But this? It is leadership without goals — only love. It is measured not in impact reports, profits, or applause, but in patience, stillness, and the ability to offer comfort at 3 am.

She no longer eats properly. She struggles to sleep. Sometimes she drifts between lucidity and silence. And she insists that I sit by her side — not because she needs anything urgent, but because she needs me. I have a trained nurse at home. But she cannot replace the presence of a daughter who can decode a furrowed brow, recognise a soft sigh, or remember how she once liked her tea.

This caregiving journey has given me a new-found respect for professional caregivers — nurses, hospice staff, and home attendants. They do for strangers what I sometimes find overwhelming to do for my own mother. Their quiet labour keeps countless families afloat, and yet they remain underpaid, undertrained, and largely invisible in public discourse.

Globally, the numbers are staggering. In the US alone, there are over 43.5 million informal caregivers. In India, these roles fall mostly on daughters, daughters-in-law, and spouses. It is a role almost always unpaid, often unacknowledged, and sometimes emotionally isolating.

India is ageing rapidly. According to HelpAge India, there are over 140 million elderly people in the country today. By 2050, this number is expected to cross 319 million. Advances in medicine mean people are living longer, but often with fragile bodies and fading independence. And yet, our systems are woefully unprepared.

A recent NITI Aayog report

points to the urgent need for investment in elderly care — structured support for at-home care, better geriatric facilities, and trained caregivers. The private sector has begun responding with luxury elder-care homes and AI-enabled monitoring systems. But these options remain accessible only to the privileged.

Japan, one of the world’s most rapidly ageing societies, has pioneered robotic caregivers like Pepper and Paro, designed to assist and comfort the elderly. Yet even there, human companionship remains irreplaceable. Machines may monitor vital signs or even mimic affection, but can they sense unspoken fear in a loved one’s eyes? Can they offer the tender discipline of midnight care — when a mother’s trembling hand reaches out for reassurance?

Caregiving also raises complex ethical questions. Should we encourage longer lives without ensuring a life worth living? Do we prepare families — emotionally, financially, socially — to deal with the slow deterioration of loved ones? Or do we simply expect them to “manage”?

I have sometimes considered placing my mother in an upscale assisted living facility. It would be easier and more efficient. But I know it would break her heart. She would feel abandoned. Unloved. And so, I stay. I stay awake at odd hours. I coax her to eat. I calm her anxiety. I offer what only a daughter can offer — presence.

And in this quiet, unglamorous room, I have learned more about leadership than in decades of professional life. Not the kind of leadership that wins applause, promotions, or awards. But the kind that demands surrender, endurance, and grace. Leadership, at its most distilled, is about showing up for another human being, consistently, without expectation of return.

As a society, we need to start valuing caregiving as essential work — not just private duty. We must provide support structures — financial and emotional — especially for women who shoulder this invisible burden while simultaneously holding jobs, raising children, and managing homes. If education and healthcare are seen as public goods, why not caregiving?

The “Third Act” of life may not have the glory of a career peak or the celebration of a social movement. But it is, in many ways, where love is lived in its purest form — through care.

And perhaps, that is the most important legacy of all.

(The writer is the founder-CEO of Parikrma Humanity Foundation)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER 1975

Donimalai ore: France shows interest

New Delhi, September 29
A high-level French delegation is arriving here shortly to negotiate contracts for the purchase of Indian iron ore from the Donimalai area after having been satisfied with the samples provided by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation. This is the first time France is showing interest in Indian iron ore. According to Mr. C. R. Das, acting MMTC Chairman, the French buyers might begin with a contract for half a million to one million tonnes for shipment in 1976-77.

25 YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER 2000

Rao, Buta held guilty in JMM MPs’ bribery case

New Delhi, Sept 29
In a historic first-ever conviction in a corruption case at the highest national level, the then prime minister, Mr P V Narasimha Rao and his cabinet colleague, Mr Buta Singh, were held guilty of bribing MPs belonging to JMM and other parties to buy their votes to save the minority Congress government against an Opposition-sponsored no-confidence motion seven years back. Special Judge Ajit Bharihoke pronounced his judgement in the jam-packed court at Vigyan Bhawan.

Letters to self: A path to healing and presence

In the fast-paced world we navigate, true healing often begins with introspection. Drawing from yogic principles of self-awareness and mindfulness, writing letters to your past and future selves emerges as a powerful therapeutic practice. This simple yet profound exercise fosters emotional release, self-discovery, and a serene mind, aligning perfectly with holistic health goals.

A letter to your past self: Start by addressing the younger you with compassion, acknowledging pains, mistakes, and triumphs. This act reveals hidden strengths, such as resilience forged in adversity, and exposes weaknesses,

like lingering fears or self-doubt. By expressing forgiveness and gratitude, you release pent-up negative emotions like regret or anger. It’s like a gentle yoga flow, unraveling tension knot by knot, setting your spirit free from yesterday’s burdens.

As you reflect on your journey, you’ll discover the growth and lessons that have shaped you into the person you are today. This process allows you to confront and heal old wounds, freeing yourself from the weight of past experiences.

A letter to your future self: Next, pen



a letter to your future self, envisioning aspirations, offering encouragement, and outlining intentions for growth.

This forward gaze highlights evolving strengths, such as new-found wisdom, while gently confronting potential pitfalls. It instills hope, dissolving anxiety about the unknown and anchoring you in purposeful action.

By writing to your future self, you’ll clarify your goals and values, gaining a deeper understanding of what you want to achieve. This practice empowers you to take control of your life, making intentional decisions that

align with your vision.

Together, these letters bridge time, healing old wounds and illuminating paths ahead. They cultivate a calm mind by decluttering emotional baggage, much like *savasana* restores the body after *asanas*. Freed from past shadows and future worries, you’ll embrace the present with joy—living happily, mindfully, and wholly.

By incorporating this practice into your self-care routine, you’ll experience a profound shift in your perspective. You’ll develop a greater sense of self-awareness, allowing you to navigate life’s challenges with greater ease and confidence.

‘Deliberate’ delay by Vijay led to stampede: FIR

TVK leaders blamed for ignoring police warnings, crowd chaos

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) president and actor Vijay “deliberately” delayed his arrival at a public rally in Karur by making unscheduled stops and conducting roadshows to “display his political strength”, even as party leaders took no effort to control the “unruly” behaviour of their cadres, according to the FIR filed by the police.

The September 27 stampede at the rally claimed at least 40 lives.

The FIR filed on Saturday by G Manivannan, Inspector of Police, Karur, does not name Vijay, but mentions his party colleagues TVK’s Karur (North) district secretary Madhiazhagan, general secretary Bussy Anand and joint general secretary CTR Nirmal Kumar as the accused.

TVK district secy arrested

Karur Police on Monday night arrested Madhiazhagan, the secretary of TVK’s Karur (North) unit in connection with the stampede at the rally addressed by actor Vijay on Saturday night. The stampede led to the death of 41 people, reports DHNS. Police sources told DH that Madhiazhagan, who was on the run, was picked up at around 9 pm on Monday.

The three have been booked under Sections 105 (culpable homicide), 110 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 125 (endangering life of others), and 223 (disobedience) of the BNS, and Section 3 of the Tamil Nadu Property (Prevention of Damage and

Loss) Act, 1992.

Continuing to distance the government from the incident, Chief Minister MK Stalin released a video stating that such a tragedy should never happen again.

“No political party leader would ever wish for their followers or innocent civilians to die. In this time of grief and mourning, I earnestly request everyone to refrain from spreading irresponsible and malicious news,” he said.

The FIR, a copy of which was accessed by DH, stated that Karur police gave permission to TVK for a public rally in Velusampuram between 3 pm and 10 pm, subject to 11 conditions. However, several television channels began reporting on Saturday morning that Vijay would address the rally in Karur at 12 pm, prompting people to arrive at the spot from 10 am.

“At 4.45 pm, Vijay reached Velayudhampalayam on the outskirts of Karur via Thavutupalayam and deliberately delayed his arrival at Velusampuram by holding roadshows at various locations, causing heavy traffic snarls,” the FIR stated.

X to appeal K’taka HC verdict on content takedown orders

NEW DELHI, PTI: Social media platform X will appeal against the Karnataka High Court’s verdict dismissing its petition challenging the authority of government officials to issue content takedown orders under the Information Technology Act.

Elon Musk-owned X said orders issued by police officers to arbitrarily take down content from its platform through a “secretive online portal called the Sahyog” are a violation of Indian citizens’ constitutional rights to freedom of speech and expression.

“X respects and complies with Indian law, but this order fails to address the core constitutional issues in our challenge and is inconsistent with the Bombay High Court’s

recent ruling that a similar regime was unconstitutional,” the social media platform said on Monday.

The Karnataka High Court had on Wednesday dismissed X Corp’s petition challenging the authority of government officials to issue content takedown orders under the Information Technology Act and maintained that social media needs to be regulated.

The bench presided over by Justice M Nagaprasanna stressed the regulation of social media, especially in cases of offences against women.

It further stated that the Indian marketplace cannot be presumed to be a mere playground where information can be disseminated in defiance of statutes or disregard for legality.

Hyderabad police bust movie piracy racket; five arrested

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

In a major crackdown, the Hyderabad Cybercrime Police have dismantled a large-scale movie piracy network by arresting five key accused.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner CV Anand said piracy was being carried out mainly through two methods.

The first involved the leakage of high-definition copies of films from digital service providers, while the second method relied on “cam releases,” where individuals recorded films during theatrical screenings using camcorders, smartphones, or hidden devices.

These pirated versions were then uploaded and circulated on popular piracy websites

such as ITamilBlasters, 5MoviezRuiz, and ITamilIMV.

Preliminary forensic watermarking revealed that several links originated from theatre leaks. The bust followed an extensive investigation into the piracy of several high-profile Telugu films, including HIT: The Third Case, #Single, Kuberaa, and Hari Hara Veera Mallu, which were uploaded online within hours of their theatrical release.

The probe began after Yarra Manindra Babu, representing the Anti-Video Piracy Cell of the Telugu Film Chamber of Commerce (TFCC), lodged a complaint. He reported that films such as #Single (released May 9, 2025) and HIT: The Third Case (released May 1, 2025) were pirated and ille-

gally uploaded online on their opening day.

Based on the complaint, a case was registered under relevant provisions of the BNS, the IT Act, the Copyright Act, and the Cinematograph Act. The arrested accused were identified as Ashwani Kumar, and Arsalan Ahmed, both natives of Bihar, Cyril Infant Raj Amaladoss, a crypto trader from Tamil Nadu, Sudhakaran, also from Tamil Nadu and Jana Kiran Kumar, an AC technician from Amalapuram.

Following the arrests, the Hyderabad City Police convened a high-level meeting with members of the Telugu film fraternity, including leading actors, producers, exhibitors, and digital distribution partners on Monday.

Kerala BJP leader booked for ‘death threat’ remark against Rahul Gandhi

THRISSUR (KERALA), PTI: Police on Monday registered a case against BJP leader Printu Mahadevan for his alleged remark during a television debate that bullets would be fired at the Opposition Leader in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, officials said.

The case was filed by the Peramangalam police based on a complaint from Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) secretary Sreekumar CC.

Mahadevan, a former ABVP leader, made the remarks while discussing protests in Bangladesh and Nepal, during a debate on a Malayalam news channel on September 26.

He reportedly said that such protests were not possible in India as people here stood strongly with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and added that if Rahul Gandhi has any such desires, “bullets will pierce his chest.”

The FIR cites provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

– Section 192 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot), Section 353 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace), and Section 351(2) (criminal intimidation).

Following comments, Congress workers staged protests against Mahadevan and the BJP across Kerala on Monday.

AICC general secretary K C Venugopal on Sunday wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, calling the threat “not just a careles outburst of a petty functionary.”

He warned that any failure to act swiftly, decisively, and publicly would be seen as complicity.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

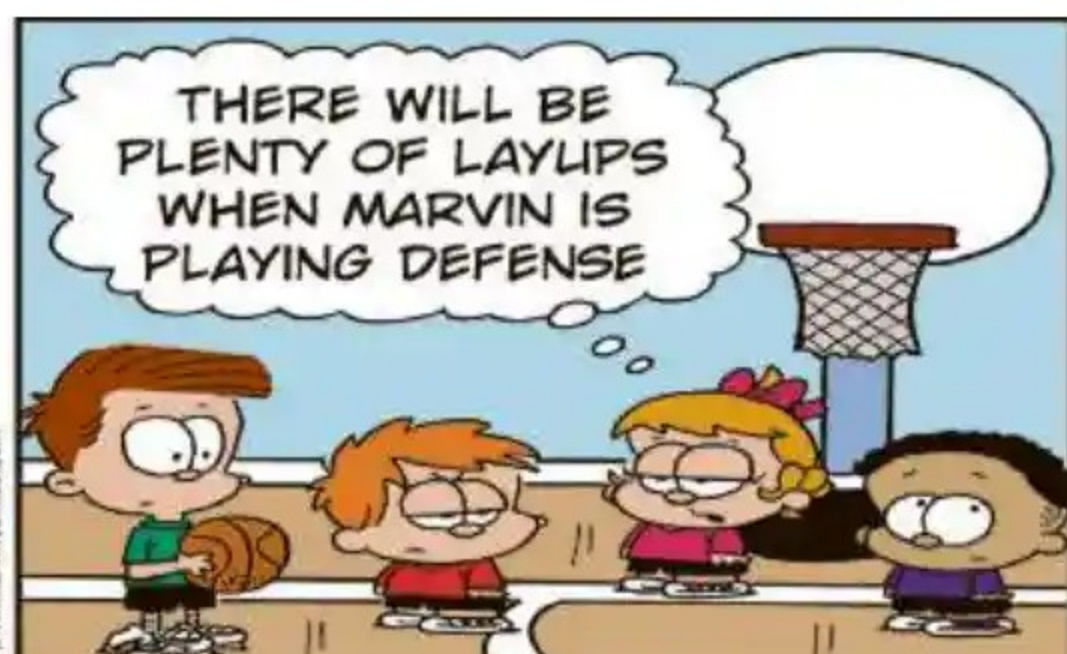
Blondie



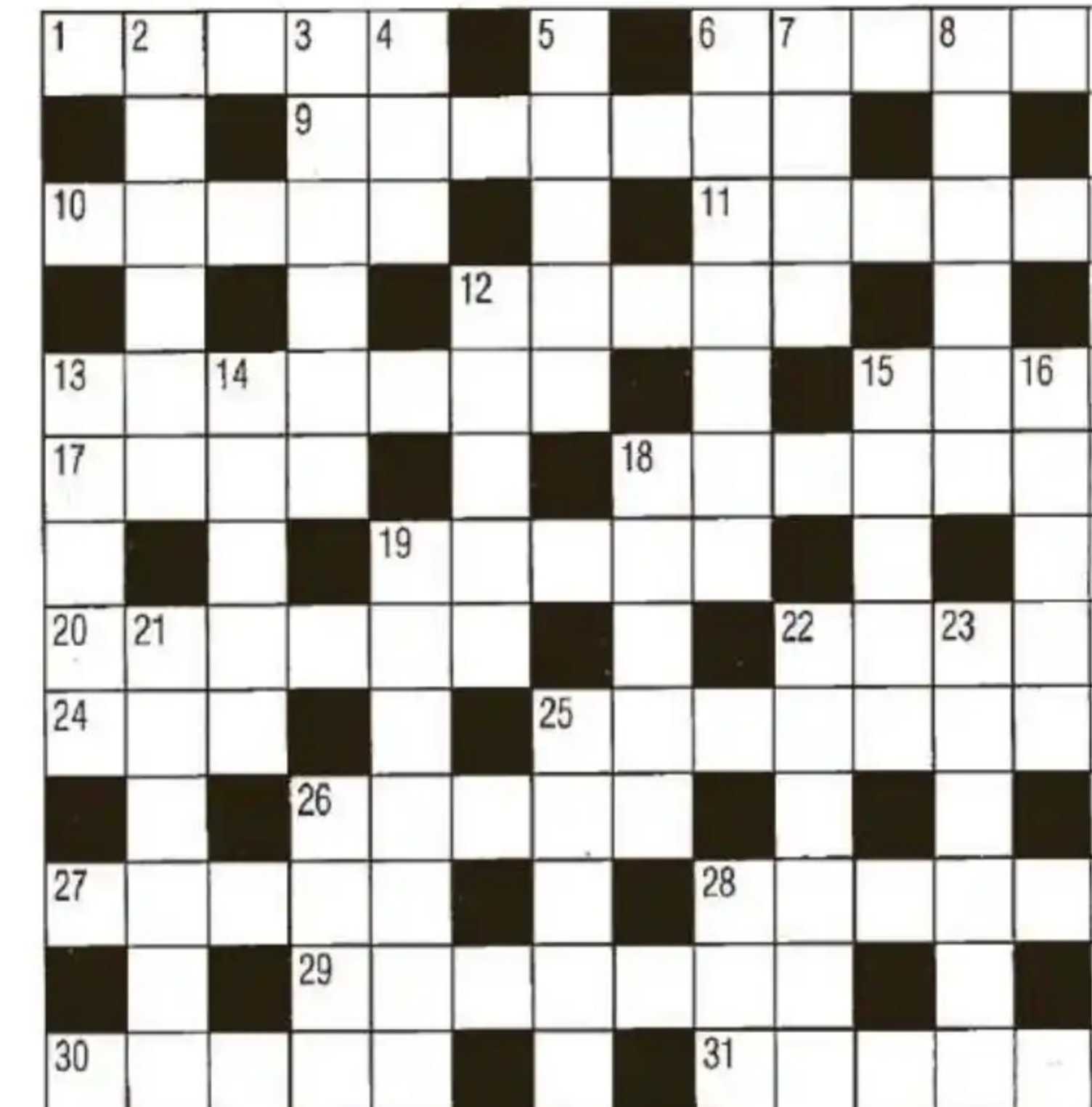
Beetle Bailey



Marvin



CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12257



- ACROSS**
- Atlantic, say (5)
 - Little (5)
 - Sharp reply (7)
 - Watch band (5)
 - Prose composition (5)
 - Maths chart (5)
 - Scapegoat, informally (4,3)
 - Vegetable (3)
 - Fencing sword (4)
 - Mend one's ways (6)
 - Illegal burning (5)
 - Terrain (6)
 - Girl's name (4)
 - Religious sister (3)
 - Flow windingly (7)
 - Stair part (5)
 - Dishonest person (5)
 - In front (5)
 - Huge fire (7)
 - Pig sound (5)
 - Attempts (5)

- DOWN**
- Light sleep (6)
 - Suitable for crops (6)
 - Pinch (3)
 - Regretful (5)
 - Boy's name (7)
 - Net (4)
 - Protect (5)
 - To pretend (5)
 - Fruit (5)
 - Unit of weight (5)
 - Fossil resin (5)
 - Oarsman (5)
 - Very old (7)
 - Gossip or hearsay (6)
 - Fasten securely (6)
 - Nullify (6)
 - Riotous brawl (5)
 - Undoing (4)
 - Social insect (3)

CRYPTIC

- ACROSS**
- A dismissive word to Sam, not being in credit (5)
 - It's pickle, so don't waste it (5)
 - Rolling along the alley (7)
 - Amount of metal moulded into and around a key (5)
 - Being Welsh, she guided Noel around the capital (5)
 - Where to get a sound crew (5)
 - Happen to veer to the off (4,3)
 - A partnership's seedy ends? (3)
 - Dry in the fresh air a lot (4)
 - Be generous so as to have maybe atoned (6)
 - Rear to be tough (5)
 - At heart, the plain facts can possibly hurt (6)
 - Face a girl and a boy (4)
 - The promising start is positive (3)
 - A poet's movements? (7)
 - One sailing from Oslo, perhaps, to Peterhead? (5)
 - Just a bad molar (5)
 - The boy with the can (5)
 - Encouragement to be progressive (2,5)
 - A hard-hearted line has its point (5)
 - Informal forename for a footballer (5)

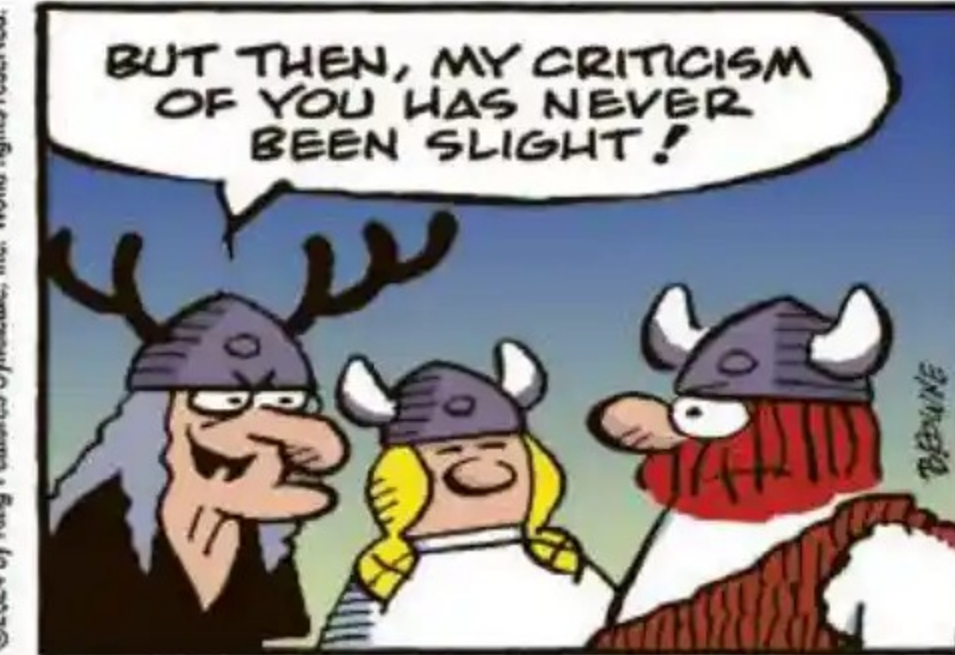
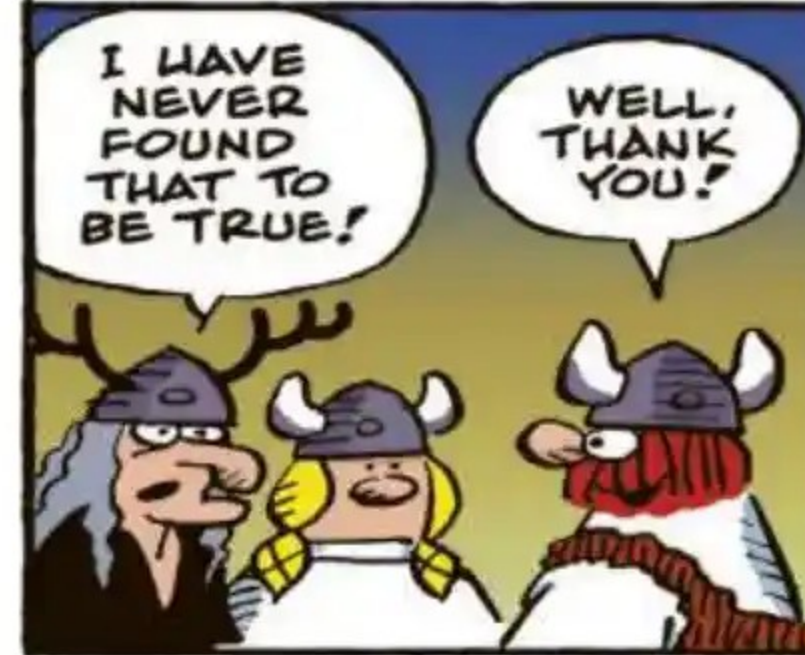
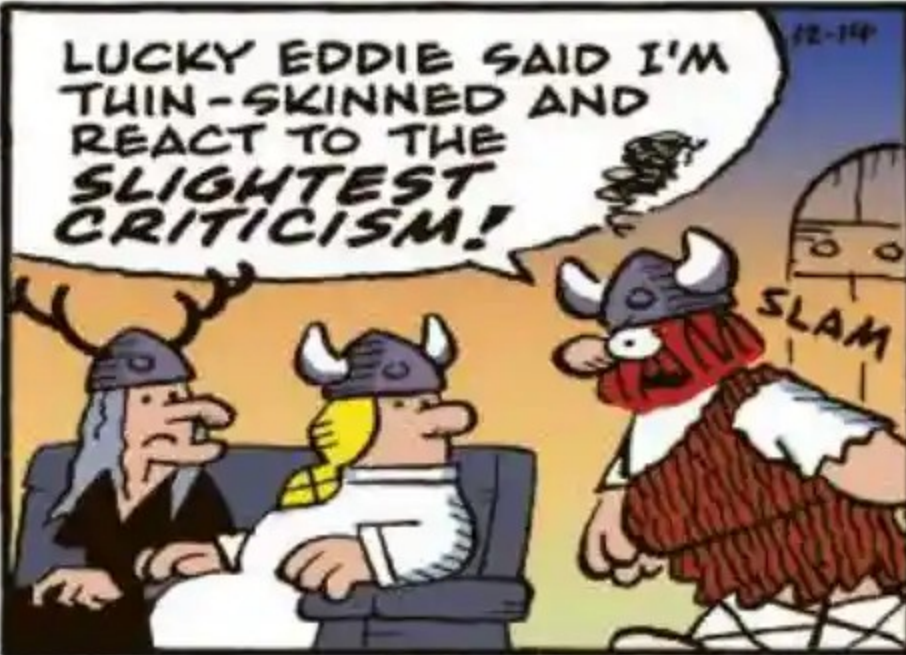
- DOWN**
- Agree to deceive a dirty dog! (6)
 - Proliferate in one great leap? (6)
 - Tom's up for the test (3)
 - Dally, yet move fast! (5)
 - In high probability, it gets snowed on (7)
 - Idler (6)
 - Look with love at a shapely leg? (4)
 - Choose to raise fees for the thing in question (3,3)
 - Factions that see lust as needing correction? (5)
 - Stay around for a little time, it's nice (5)
 - Arrange to make an outfit more expensive (3,2)
 - In the garden, much clever topiary (5)
 - Prepares potatoes, a bit of pie and some fish (5)
 - Look exhausted and fall out of the ring (5)
 - Everything in the exhibition is trivial (7)
 - Artist who, again, had no hair-piece (6)
 - I'd vied with a share system (6)
 - Are there degrees of fishiness in his sport (6)
 - Coffee, or some more tea that's not right (5)
 - An import we get in from Saigon? (4)
 - A mousy flier (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12256

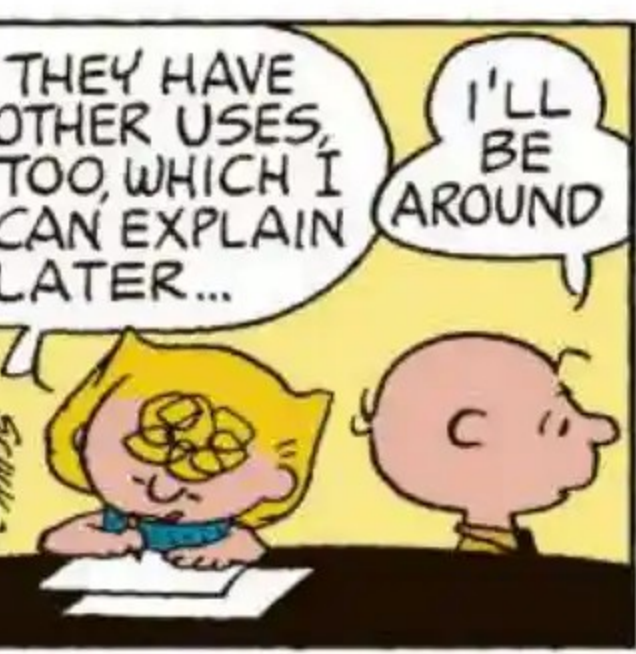
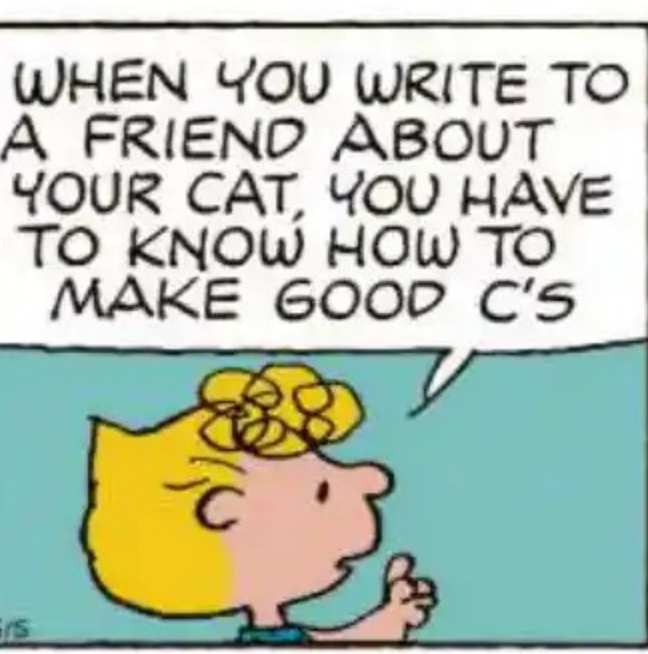
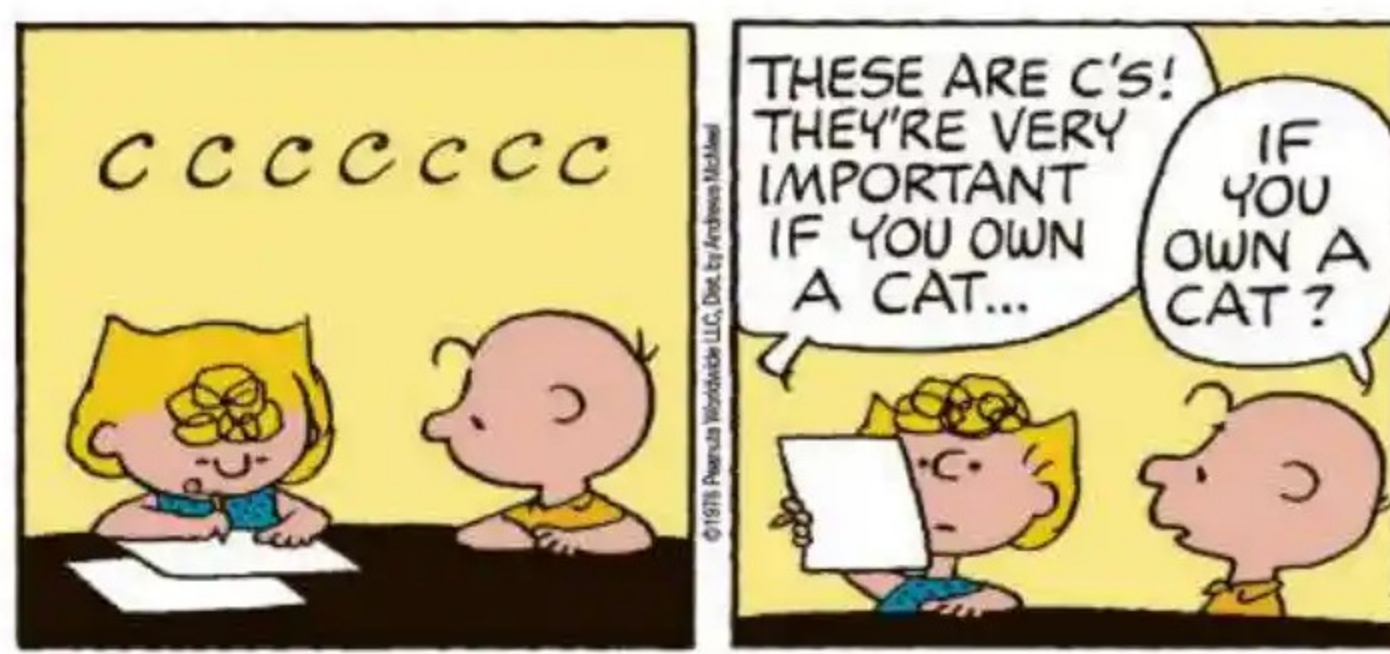
CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 3, D-oubt 8, Col-ic 10, Right 11, Gas 12, O-ran 13, Now-here 15, C-ease 18, Nab 19, Pe-St-er 21, Serio- 22, New-t 23, E-a-se 24, Sea-sons 26, Grade-d 29, Tar 31, Sat-an 32, Geraint 34, Visor 35, Gnu 36, Folio 37, Henry 38, Drift.
DOWN: 1, Go-go-L 2, Fishnet 4, Ogre 5, Braces 6, Times 7, Chase 9, Law 12, Orbited 14, Ear 16, A-tlas 17, Erred 19, Punster 20, S- nag-S 21, Sweat 23, Enraged 24, Sen-l-or 25, Qar 27, Ra-y-on 28, D-ay-id 30, In-Ure 32, Golf 33, In-n.

EASY
ACROSS: 3, Kebab 8, Rival 10, Cells 11, Gin 12, Papal 13, Anagram 15, Clues 18, Wit 19, Siesta 21, Magenta 22, Drey 23, Real 24, Flicker 26, Utopia 29, Kit 31, Ronan 32, Deduces 34, Razor 35, Rot 36, Peril 37, Snoop 38, Sewer.
DOWN: 1, Signs 2, Gangway 4, Edam 5, Acacia 6, Belle 7, Sleet 9, Via 12, Patella 14, Rig 16, Usher 17, Sails 19, Sticker 20, Odour 21, Melon 23, Returns 24, Finale 25, Kid 27, Towel 28, Paris 30, Set on 32, Dole 33, Coo.

Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



◆ SU-DO-KU-6714 ◆

				1		5
	4	7	8			6
				9	2	
5		4				7
						2
9	6				5	8
			9	6		
	2			5	9	6
3			4			

very hard

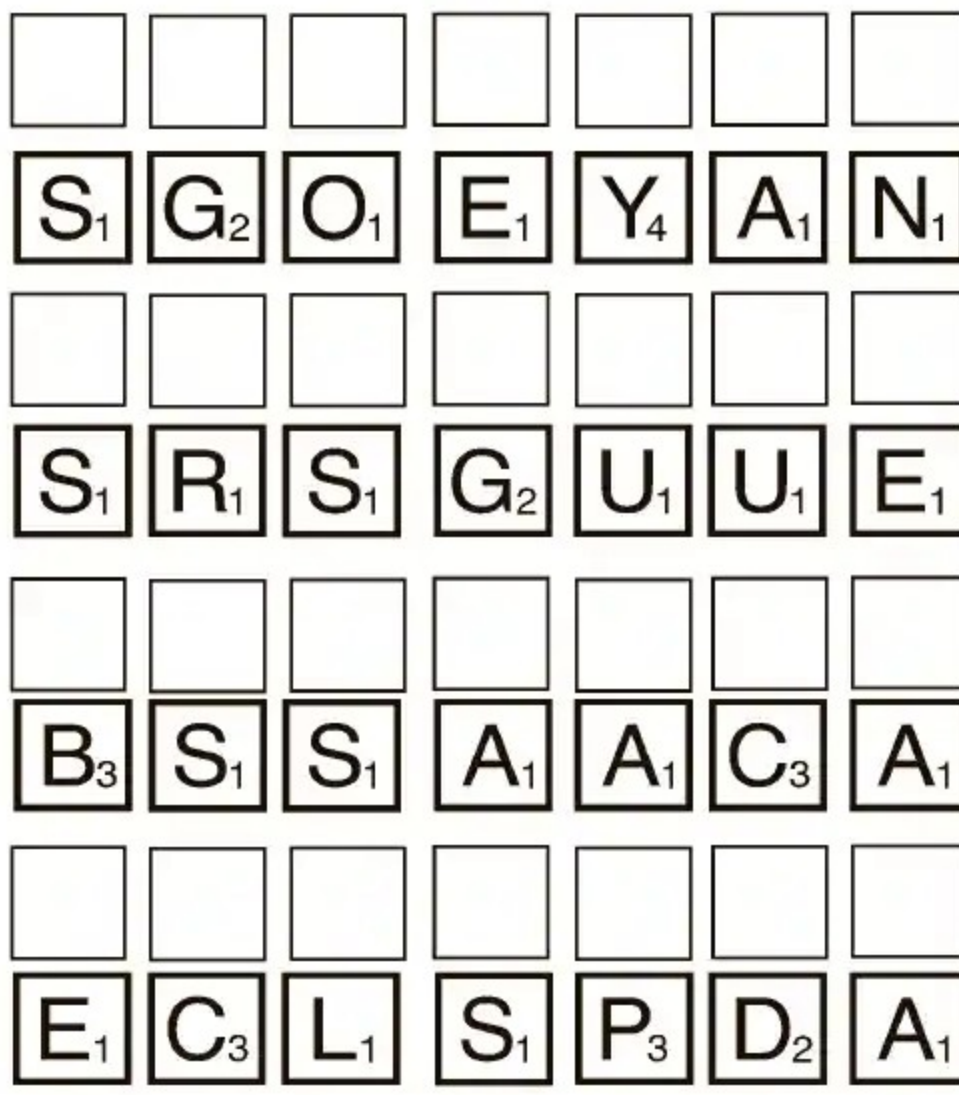
4	8	5	2	3	1	9	7	6
2	7	1	9	5	6	3	4	8
3	6	9	8	4	7	2	1	5
9	2	4	6	1	5	7	8	3
5	3	6	7	9	8	4	2	1
7	1	8	4	2	3	5	6	9
8	9	7	3	6	4	1	5	2
1	4	2	5	8	9	6	3	7
6	5	3	1	7	2	8	9	4

SOLUTION TO 6713

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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PAR SCORE 145-155

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL

TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

P	O	T	T	E	R	Y
P	I	L	L	A	G	E
E	N	J	O	Y	E	D
Q	U	A	F	F	E	R

RACK 1	=	86
RACK 2	=	80
RACK 3	=	104
RACK 4	=	116
PAR SCORE	255-265	JUDD'S TOTAL

HITORI-3168

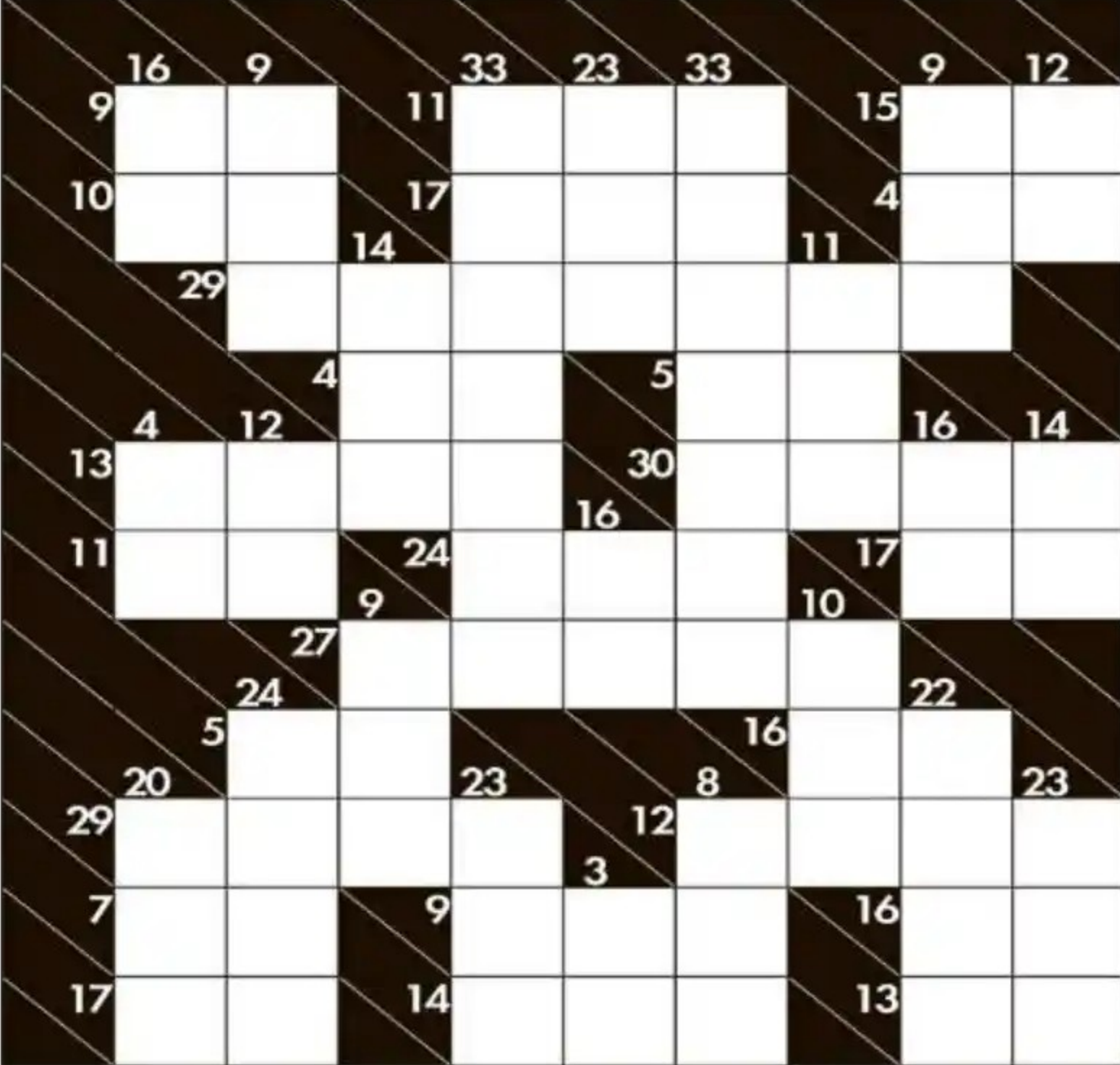
2	3	2	8	8	7	6	1
6	2	8	3	4	5	2	5
1	4	3	1	7	2	5	2
5	1	1	7	6	1	8	2
1	7	8	4	8	8	1	3
2	5	6	8	3	1	7	1
7	2	4	1	2	5	3	3
1	2	7	1	5	1	3	3

SOLUTION TO 3167

1	2	5		6	7
5	3	6	2	7	4
6		5	3	4	2
8	6		4	1	3
3	4	1	7	5	6
7		2	6		5
1	5	7	3	2	8
7	2		1	5	4

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3168



SOLUTION TO 3167

9	4	1	7	12	3	9
9	7	3	8	2	1	7
7	3	10	9	2	6	7
6	4	7	4	8	1	9
4	5	6	3	1	9	6
9	8	9	4	2	4	1
7	9	7	5	1	6	2
5	5	2	1	2	7	8
2	1	4	6	7	8	3
6	3	7	5	9	7	5
1	5					

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A winery in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3692

2				1	7	
		8		9		3
		1			5	
						9
1		4				8
3				6		
	2	7				
		8		3		4
8					2	5

SOLUTION TO 3691

3	4	2	1	5	9	6	7	8
1	6	5	8	2	7	9	3	4
8	7	9	4	6	3	5	2	1
9	8	1	7	4	2	3	5	6
6	5	3	9	1	8	2	4	7
7	2	4	6	3	5	8	1	9
5	1	7	2	8	6	4	9	3
2	9	6	3	7	4	1	8	5
4	3	8	5	9	1	7	6	2

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Israel backs Gaza peace plan: US

Israel would retain security responsibility after war: Netanyahu

WASHINGTON, AFP

US President Donald Trump said on Monday that he had Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's backing for a wide-ranging Gaza peace plan that would bring an immediate ceasefire. The plan, which Trump has circulated to Arab leaders, was released after he met Netanyahu in Washington.

Trump told a press conference that Netanyahu had agreed to the plan, which calls for an immediate ceasefire, followed by disarmament of Hamas and Israeli withdrawal. Hamas has yet to give its approval, but Trump said he was hopeful the militant group would support it. Trump said approval from all sides was "beyond very close."

Trump said that it is time for Hamas to accept a 20-point peace proposal that he agreed to with Netanyahu regarding the future of Gaza. "We're not quite finished," Trump said.



US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hold a joint press conference at the White House in Washington DC on Monday. REUTERS

"We have to get Hamas, but I think they're going to be able to do that. So now it's time for Hamas to accept the terms of the plan that we've put forward today."

The 20-point plan states that, once agreed by both sides, "the war will immediately end," with Israeli withdrawals timed to the release of the last hostages held by Hamas. During that initial period, there would be a ceasefire.

Key points include deployment of a "temporary interna-

tional stabilisation force" and the creation of a transitional authority headed by Trump.

The deal would demand that Hamas militants fully disarm and be excluded from future government roles. Those who agree to "peaceful co-existence" would be given amnesty.

Following Israeli withdrawal, borders would be opened to aid and investment.

In a significant change from Trump's earlier goals, Palestinians would not be forced to

leave. Instead, the plan states: "we will encourage people to stay and offer them the opportunity to build a better Gaza."

Netanyahu, speaking after Trump, said he supported the peace proposal. "I support your plan to end the war in Gaza, which achieves our war aims. It will bring back to Israel all our hostages, dismantle Hamas' military capabilities, end its political rule, and ensure that Gaza never again poses a threat to Israel," Netanyahu

Trump met key Arab leaders at the United Nations last week and said on social media Sunday that "All are on board for something special, first time ever." Netanyahu has recently offered little reason for optimism, vowing in a defiant UN speech Friday to "finish the job" against Hamas and rejecting Palestinian statehood, which has been recognised by several Western nations.

Normally a staunch ally of Netanyahu, Trump has shown growing frustration ahead of the Israeli premier's fourth White House visit since Trump returned to power.

Trump was angered by Israel's recent strike on Hamas members in Qatar, a key US ally. He also warned Netanyahu last week against annexing the Israeli-occupied West Bank, a move some cabinet members have urged, which would complicate the route to Palestinian statehood.

Meanwhile, Israeli strikes continued across the Gaza Strip, killing at least four people in Khan Yunis. Families of Israeli hostages held in Gaza urged Trump to uphold his proposal. "We respectfully ask you to stand firm against any attempts to sabotage the deal you have brought forth," the Hostages and Missing Families Forum said.

Focus on education, research is a need of the hour



Sharath Kumar Bache Gowda, MLA, Hoskote speaks at the valedictory function of Gravitas 2025.

Speaking at the valedictory function of Gravitas, the techno management fest of Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), Vellore, chief guest Sharath Kumar Bache Gowda, MLA - Hoskote, said, 10 per cent of Indians own more than 75 per cent of the country's wealth, underscoring the need to address economic disparities. "Democracy should extend beyond politics to ensure equitable access to education, employment and investment," he stated.

Shashank Shah, Director, NITI Aayog, said, "Higher education and research will play a key role in India's ambition to become a developed nation by 2047. He stressed on the transformative potential of academic and research advancements in achieving this national goal. Shashank Shah said India aims to achieve a USD three trillion economy in the next 25 years, requiring a 7.50-fold growth. He noted that 4.50 crore students are currently enrolled in higher education institutions across India, with a gender parity index of 1.01, indicating a higher enrollment of female students.

There's a need to prioritise research, he said, urging universities to evolve into hubs of innovation. Citing a London Economics report, he pointed out that research at Cambridge University contributes to the UK's economic growth significantly. In India, investments in research are expected to rise from 0.70 per cent to 3.50 per cent of GDP over the next 25 years - a five-fold increase that could drive 40 times the economic growth. He called on universities, students, faculty and researchers to leverage public and private funding to make substantial contributions.

VIT's Vice President Sekar Viswanathan reflected on India's economic resilience, recalling how the nation overcame sanctions following the Pokhran nuclear tests to emerge as a strong economy. He highlighted India's progress in space technology, with ISRO achieving milestones despite initial denials of technology transfers by NASA.

VIT's Executive Director Sandhya Pentareddy described Gravitas as a platform for innovation, fostering creativity, problem-solving and start-up initiatives for students. The event concluded with awards presented to the top three teams in the Gravitas Hackathon.

VIT's Vice President Sankar Viswanathan, Vice Chancellor Kanchana Bhaskaran, Pro Vice Chancellor Parthasarathy Mallick, Registrar Dr Jayabathi T, and Gravitas Coordinator Sharmila N, also attended the event.

Curated by **DH Brandspot**

B'desh blames 'vested quarters' for violence in Khagrachhari

DHAKA, PTI: Bangladesh's interim government on Monday claimed that certain quarters are attempting to incite sectarian violence in the country's northeastern Khagrachhari hill district.

At least three people were killed and dozens injured on Sunday when clashes broke out between aboriginal tribesmen and the settler Bengali community in parts of the southeastern hills over the alleged gang rape of a tribal girl last week.

Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury sought to blame deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina as well as India for the disturbances in the hilly region. He, however, could not provide any evidence in support of his claim. He said the interim government was taking maximum precautions to counter attempts to destabilise the hills. He added that he feared the efforts were aimed at upsetting the festive mood of the ongoing Durga Puja festival.

"The vested quarters are trying to create unrest to disrupt the peaceful atmosphere of Durga Puja... They are behind the Khagrachhari incident," he alleged.

"We are mobilising our maximum efforts so no one can create further unrest in Khagrachhari," he added.

Media reports and witnesses said continued tensions forced residents to stay indoors, fearing an outbreak of fresh violence.

Canada lists Bishnoi Gang as terrorist entity

Move comes after talks between top security officials of India and Canada

OTTAWA, PTI

Canada on Monday said it has listed the Bishnoi Gang as a terrorist entity for creating a "climate of fear and intimidation."

"Acts of violence and terror have no place in Canada, especially those that target specific communities to create a climate of fear and intimidation," an official statement said.

The development comes more than a week after National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and his Canadian counterpart Nathalie Drouin held wide-ranging talks in New Delhi.

During their discussions, the two sides agreed to adopt a collaborative approach towards a new chapter in bilateral ties, including working closely to combat terrorism and transnational crime.

"Specific communities have been targeted for terror, violence and intimidation by the Bishnoi Gang. Listing this group of criminal terrorists gives us more powerful and effective tools to confront and put a stop to their crimes," Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree said on Monday.



Gangster Lawrence Bishnoi is escorted outside a Patiala House court in New Delhi. PTI FILE

day. With the addition of the Bishnoi Gang, there are now 88 terrorist entities listed under the Criminal Code in Canada. A terrorist listing gives the federal government power to freeze or seize property, vehicles and money, along with providing Canadian law enforcement additional tools to prosecute terrorist offenses, including those related to financing, travel and recruitment, according to an official statement.

It is a criminal offence for anyone in Canada and for Canadians abroad to knowingly deal with property owned or controlled by a terrorist group. It is also an offence to directly or indirectly provide property knowing that it will be used by, or benefit, a terrorist group.

The Criminal Code listing can also be used by immigration and border officials to inform decisions on admissibility to Canada under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act.

The Bishnoi Gang, led by Lawrence Bishnoi, is a transnational criminal organisation operating primarily out of India. They have a presence in Canada and are active in areas with significant diaspora communities, the statement said.

Canadian police have linked some extortion cases back to the gang, whose leader is in prison in India.

"The Bishnoi Gang engages in murder, shootings and arson, and generates terror through extortion and intimidation. They create a climate of insecurity in these communities by targeting them, their prominent community members, businesses, and cultural figures," the statement said.

Pakistan-occupied Kashmir observes general strike

ISLAMABAD, PTI

A general strike was observed in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) on Monday on the call of a local action group, demanding relief for the masses and transparency in the government system, according to media reports.

The protest call was given by the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC), represented by traders, local leaders and civil society activists.

The protest began two years ago to secure a regular and subsidised supply of flour and electricity in the region, but has now been joined by additional demands such as the reduction in privileges enjoyed by the Kashmiri elite, abolition of reserved assembly seats and free education and health facilities. The JKJAAC alleges that the fresh protest is being held this time because the government has failed to fully implement the agreement reached two years ago.

Samaa TV reported that markets, transport, and even communication services were disrupted amid growing public frustration over unmet demands. It added that markets, commercial centres, and lorry depots across Muzaffarabad were shuttered, with transport completely absent from the roads. Hotels and shops that normally open early remained closed. Although schools were officially open, classrooms were empty as

KEY DEMANDS

- The JKJAAC's general strike is for demanding relief, government transparency and fulfilment of past agreements.
- Markets, transport, schools and communication services were shut across PoK amid public frustration.

most students did not attend. The channel also reported that for the second consecutive day, internet and mobile phone services remained suspended across PoK. In an unprecedented move, landline telephone services were also completely cut off.

The protestors put forward a 38-point charter of demands. Among the key demands are an end to the 12 reserved seats for refugees and the rollback of privileges enjoyed by the elite. Other demands include construction of several road projects, relief in taxes, subsidy on flour and electricity, end of job quotas for refugees, reform in the judiciary and several other demands of local nature.

The strike succeeded in getting support from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf of Imran Khan. The protest committee not only held talks with a negotiation team formed by the government of PoK, but also representatives of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif from the federal government.

WORLD AT A GLANCE



Workers remove fallen trees and electric polls from a road after Typhoon Bualol makes landfall in Nghe An province, Vietnam, on Monday. At least nine deaths were reported. REUTERS

Nepal freezes passports of deposed PM Oli, 4 others

► Nepal has frozen the passports of deposed prime minister KP Sharma Oli, his home minister Ramesh Lekhak and three others in connection with the violent suppression of the Gen-Z protests early this month, PTI reports from Kathmandu.

One of the injured protesters died while undergoing treatment in a hospital in Kathmandu on Monday, taking the death toll in the two-day protests to 76. Days after Sushila Karki was sworn in as the prime minister of the interim government, a Cabinet meeting on September 21 formed the judicial inquiry commission to probe the use of force during the Gen Z protests that led to deaths. On Sunday, the high-level judicial commission recommended freezing the passports of Oli and four others. The home ministry moved to freeze the passports on the recommendation of the commission. Those facing passport freeze include the then home secretary Gokarna Mani Duwadi, the then National Investigation Department chief Hutaraj Thapa and the then chief district officer of Kathmandu Chhabi Rijal, according to the officials. The five will not be able to leave the country. According to commission chair Gauri Bahadur Karki, the decision was made to ensure accountability as inquiries into the incident progress.

Moldova's pro-EU party wins

► Moldovans gave the country's pro-Western governing party a clear parliamentary majority in a weekend election, defeating pro-Russian groups in a vote widely viewed as a stark choice between East and West, AP/PTI reports from Chisinau.

European leaders on Monday hailed Moldovans for reaffirming their commitment to a Western path and future membership in the European Union in the face of alleged Russian interference. The country is small in size and population, but with outsized geopolitical importance. "You made your choice clear: Europe. Democracy. Freedom," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in a post on X. "No attempt to sow fear or division could break your resolve." Landlocked between war-torn Ukraine and EU and Nato member Romania, Moldova was a Soviet republic until it proclaimed independence in 1991. In recent years, it has taken a clear Westward path.

Iran hangs man 'spying' for Israel

► Iran said on Monday it hanged a man accused of spying for Israel, the latest as Tehran carries out its largest wave of executions in decades, AP/PTI reports from Dubai.

Iran identified the executed man as Bahman Choobiasl, whose case wasn't immediately known in Iranian media reports or to activists monitoring the death penalty in the Islamic Republic.

However, the execution came after Iran vowed to confront its enemies after the United Nations reimposed sanctions on Tehran over its nuclear programme this weekend. Iran accused Choobiasl of meeting with officials from the Israeli spy agency Mossad. Iran's Mizan news agency, which is the judiciary's official mouthpiece, said Choobiasl worked on "sensitive telecommunications projects" and reported about the "paths of importing electronic devices."

Indian soldiers liberated us from Ottomans: Israeli mayor

HAIFA, PTI: The Israeli city of Haifa on Monday paid tributes to fallen Indian soldiers, with the Mayor noting that the city's school history books are being changed to correct that it was Indian troops and not the British who liberated the city from Ottoman rule.

"I was born in this city and graduated from here. Constantly, we were told that this city was freed by the British till somebody from the Historical Society knocked at my door one day and said that they have done a thorough research and found that it wasn't the British but the Indians who freed this city (from the Ottomans)," said Mayor of Haifa, Yona Yahav.

Yahav had, during the first ceremony at the same venue in 2009, said the coastal city's history textbooks will include the story of its liberation by Indian soldiers, and it is today a well-known fact among youngsters in the city.

The Indian Army commemo-

orates September 23 every year as Haifa Day to pay its respects to the three brave Indian Cavalry Regiments - Mysore, Hyderabad and Jodhpur Lancers - that helped liberate Haifa following a dashing cavalry action by the 15th Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade on that date in 1918.

An event to pay tributes to the Indian soldiers is also organised every year at the Indian soldiers' cemetery by the Indian mission and the Haifa municipality. Capt Aman Singh Bahadur and Dafadar Jor Singh were awarded the Indian Order of Merit, and Capt Anop Singh and 2nd Lt Sagat Singh were awarded the Military Cross in recognition of their bravery in this battle.

Major Dalpat Singh, widely popular as the Hero of Haifa, was awarded a military cross for his bravery. The Jodhpur Lancers lost eight men in the battle. But they also captured over 700 prisoners and weapons.

Madagascar govt dissolved after 22 killed in protests

ANTANANARIVO/GENEVA, REUTERS/AFP

Madagascar President Andry Rajoelina announced on Monday that he was dissolving the government following youth-led protests over water and power cuts that left at least 22 people dead and more than 100 injured.

The demonstrations, inspired by the so-called "Gen Z" protests in Kenya and Nepal, represent the largest the Indian Ocean island has seen in years and the most serious challenge to Rajoelina since his re-election in 2023. "We acknowledge and apologise if members of the government have not carried out the tasks assigned to them," Rajoelina said in a televised address.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, said some of the victims were protesters or bystanders killed by security forces during



Riot police use tear gas to disperse protesters during a demonstration against frequent power outages and water shortages in Antananarivo on Monday. REUTERS

the demonstrations, which erupted over frequent power cuts and poor water access. Others died in the widespread violence and looting carried out by criminal gangs unconnected to the protests.

"I am shocked and saddened by the killings and injuries in the protests over water and power cuts in Madagascar," Turk said, urging authorities to respect freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. He condemned the heavy-handed policing, including the use of live ammunition, and called on security forces to desist from disproportionate force and to immediately release all arbitrarily detained protesters.

Gandhi statue in London vandalised

LONDON, PTI: The High Commission of India has strongly condemned the vandalism of Mahatma Gandhi's statue at Tavistock Square in London on Monday, just days before the annual Gandhi Jayanti celebrations are scheduled to be held at the site on October 2.

The plinth of the iconic statue, which depicts the Father of the Nation in a seated meditative pose, was discovered daubed with some disturbing graffiti. The Indian mission said it has reported the desecration to the authorities, even as its officials are at the site to coordinate the restoration of the monument to its original state.

"The High Commission of India in London is deeply saddened and strongly condemns the shameful act of vandalism of the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Tavistock Square in London," the Indian High Commission in London said in a statement.

Festive sales: Quick commerce leads with over 85% growth in volumes

Healthy foods, beauty & wellness are in big demand

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Consumers prefer faster delivery during this festive season as quick commerce orders recorded over 85% growth in volumes during the first week of the festive season sale, according to an analysis by e-commerce enablement SaaS platform Unicommerce.

This positions quick com-

merce as a key growth driver in this year's festive sales. It also said that e-commerce order volumes witnessed a 21% year-on-year increase during the first six days of the festive season compared to that of last year's festive sales.

The analysis is based on over 40 million transactions processed by Unicommerce's platform Uniware, during the first festive sale week in both years. The key categories that drove overall growth during this period included FMCG—led by healthy foods, followed by beauty & wellness, health & pharma—which saw a strong demand for nutraceuticals & supplements, electronics—fuelled by increased sales of home appliances, and home decor products.

Brand websites recorded a 31% increase in volumes, predominantly driven by the beauty and wellness segment, including makeup, personal care, and hygiene products. The fashion category, primarily led by apparel and jewellery, also recorded strong growth.

Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities continued to drive a significant share of order volumes, collectively accounting for around 58% of the total festive transactions during the first festive week, it said.

For major e-commerce players, Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities drove sales. Amazon recently said that its Prime members drove demand from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities across key categories including appliances, fashion and

beauty, smartphones, and furniture. Prime members experienced even faster deliveries, with over 30 lakh products delivered in metro cities within the same or next day and more than 50 lakh products reaching customers in tier 2 and 3 cities within 2 days, it said.

As per Unicommerce's analysis, while metros and Tier-1 cities recorded a 22% increase in order volumes, Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities together registered a 20% growth, compared to the corresponding period last year. The steady year-on-year increase in order volumes from these cities also highlights the growing significance of these towns in driving festive season demand, it added.

Amazon Fresh expands to over 270 cities

Amazon India on Monday announced the expansion of its grocery service Amazon Fresh to over 270 cities across the country during the ongoing Amazon Great Indian Festival. Its newly added cities include Gorakhpur, Dehradun, Coimbatore, Nellore, Hassan, Kodagu, Warangal, Kollam, and Hubli, among others.

With two-hour delivery slots, Amazon Fresh sellers offer over 40,000 products, a ten-fold increase from 4,000 in 2023.

Amazon Fresh said this includes fresh fruits and vegetables, staples, dairy, packaged foods, frozen items, and a



growing portfolio of regional products.

"Amazon Fresh has grown 4.5X in reach and 10X in selection in just two years, transforming how families across India shop for groceries online," said Srikant Sree Ram, Director - Am-

azon Fresh India.

"By expanding to over 270 cities, we are making household essentials and festive favourites available to more households than ever before. This has been possible because of expansion in Amazon Fresh seller's network and presence across cities, combined with Amazon's advanced delivery capabilities, establishing one of India's largest omnichannel grocery networks," he added.

Amazon Fresh sellers have established a farm-to-doorstep network, partnering directly with more than 13,000 registered farmers across the country.

Industrial output growth slips to 4% in August

Poor show of mfg; GST rate cut impact likely in Sept

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

India's industrial output growth slowed to 4% in August from an upwardly revised 4.3% in the previous month dragged by sluggish performance of the manufacturing, official data showed on Monday.

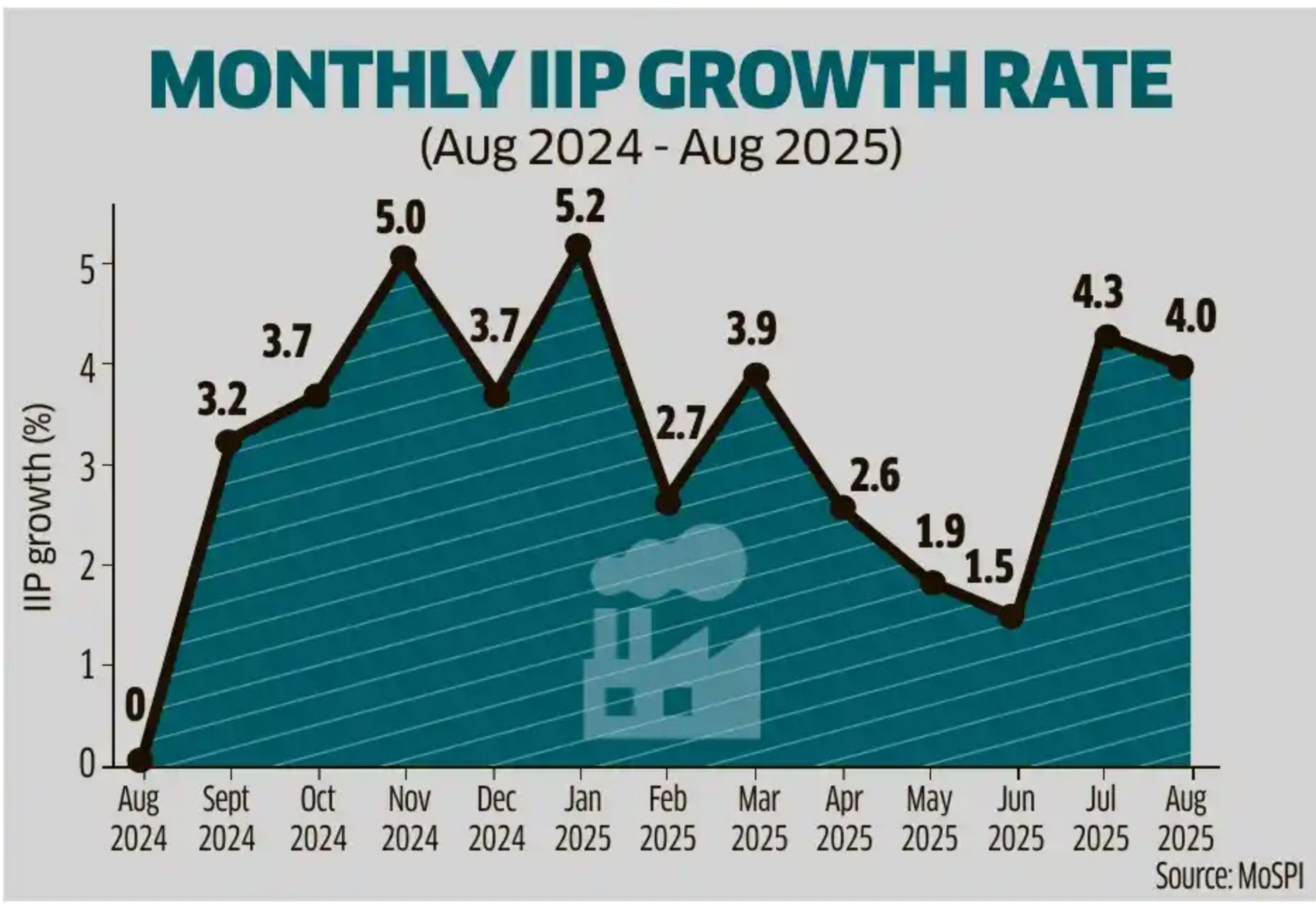
Manufacturing sector growth slipped to 3.8% in August from 6% recorded in July. Mining output turned positive after a gap of four months. Mining output in August was 6% higher when compared with the same month last year. The annual growth in electricity production was a five-month high of 4.1% in August.

Industrial production has been sluggish this year. The cumulative growth in factory output as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) stood at 2.8% in the April-August period of the cur-

rent financial year when compared with the same period of the previous year.

Within the manufacturing sector only 10 out of 23 industry groups at NIC 2 digit-level recorded a positive growth during the month under review. Manufacture of basic metals (12.2%), manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products (5.4%) and manufacture of motor vehicles, trailers and semi-trailers (9.8%) were the top performers in the manufacturing sector, data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation showed.

On the use-based side, the growth in primary goods output accelerated to a 7-month high of 5.2% in August 2025, reflecting the trends in mining and electricity generation, even as all the other five sub-segments witnessed a deterioration in their growth performance.



Notably, consumer non-durables witnessed the steepest contraction in eight months, while the growth in consumer durables halved to 3.5% from 7.3% in July 2025, which may reflect inventory management to avoid stranded taxes ahead of the GST rationalization, said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA.

The infrastructure goods output rose by double-digits for the second consecutive month, suggesting that growth in construction activity is likely to have remained healthy.

"Going forward, rising private consumption should support industrial production," said Dharmakirti Joshi, Chief

Economist, Crisil.

"So far, a copious monsoon, robust kharif sowing and benign inflation have supported the rural economy. The impact of excess rains on agriculture output will be monitorable," Joshi said.

Rationalisation of the goods and services tax (GST) along with income tax relief and lower lending rates is likely to support urban demands.

"The GST relief should benefit consumption but will be a function of the extent of passthrough. However, a slowing world means softer exports, and the tariffs imposed by the US add to that drag," he added.

Motilal Oswal buys Bharat Forge's shares worth Rs 378 cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: Motilal Oswal Mutual Fund on Monday bought shares of forging and precision engineering firm Bharat Forge worth nearly Rs 378 crore through an open market transaction.

According to the bulk deal available on the NSE, Motilal Oswal Mutual Fund (MF) purchased nearly 32 lakh equity shares, or 0.65% stake, in Pune-based Bharat Forge.

The shares were acquired at an average price of Rs 1,217.32 apiece, taking the transaction value to Rs 377.73 crore.

Details of the sellers of Bharat Forge's shares could not be ascertained from the National Stock Exchange (NSE).

Shares of Bharat Forge rose 0.94% to close at Rs 1,192.20 apiece on the NSE.

In a separate bulk deal on the NSE, Singapore-headquartered Amansa Capital purchased 12.82 lakh shares or 0.97% stake in specialty chemicals maker Aether Industries for Rs 94 crore through an open market transaction.

The transaction was valued at around Rs 94.27 crore and was executed at a price of Rs 735 apiece.

Silver scales Rs 1.5 lakh/kg; gold hits Rs 1.19 lakh/10g

The record level is driven by strong bullish cues from global markets

NEW DELHI, PTI

Silver prices on Monday soared by Rs 7,000 to hit an all-time high of Rs 1.5 lakh per kilogram in the national capital, while gold also scaled a fresh peak of Rs 1,19,500 per 10 grams amid strong global trends as investors turned to the safe-haven asset amid concerns over a possible US government shutdown.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity climbed Rs 1,500 to touch a lifetime high of Rs 1,19,500 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). It had closed at Rs 1,18,000 per 10 grams on Saturday.

In the local bullion market, gold of 99.5 per cent purity also advanced by Rs 1,500 to hit a fresh peak of Rs 1,18,900 per 10 grams, up from Rs 1,17,400 per 10 grams in the previous session.



"In the domestic market, both gold and silver reached new record highs, driven by strong bullish cues from overseas markets," said Saumil Gandhi, Senior Analyst -- Commodities at HDFC Securities.

So far this year, the yellow metal prices have risen Rs 40,550, or 51.36%, surging from Rs 78,950 per 10 grams on December 31, 2024.

Silver prices, too, witnessed a sharp rally, and climbed Rs 7,000 to touch a record Rs 1,50,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes), extending gains for the fourth straight session. The white metal had ended at Rs 1,43,000 per kg in the previous trade.

The white metal prices have

skyrocketed by Rs 60,300, or 67.22%, in the current calendar year, rallying from Rs 89,700 per kg on December 31, 2024.

In the overseas market, both gold and silver posted robust gains. Spot gold surged 2% to hit an all-time high of \$3,831.33 per ounce, while spot silver advanced more than 2% to \$47.18 per ounce.

"Spot gold prices extended its weekly winning streak to the sixth straight week and touched a new record high, driven by trade concerns, huge ETF inflows and Fed rate cut expectations.

In the domestic futures market on Monday, gold for October delivery appreciated by Rs 1,702, or 1.5%.

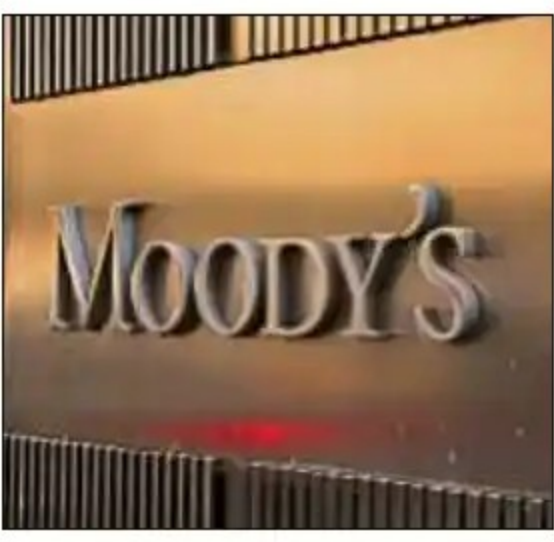
Moody's affirms India's sovereign ratings

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Global rating agency Moody's on Monday affirmed India's sovereign rating saying gradual improvement in fiscal metrics and strong GDP growth lend resilience to adverse external factors like the US tariffs.

India's long-term local and foreign-currency issuer ratings and the local-currency senior unsecured ratings have been kept unchanged at Baa3. The short-term local-currency rating also remains unchanged at P-3. Moody's has retained its rating outlook on India at "stable".

"The rating affirmation and stable outlook reflect our view that India's prevailing credit strengths, including its large, fast-growing economy, sound external position, and stable domestic financing base for ongoing fiscal deficits will be sustained," Moody's said in a statement.



Moody's has kept its ratings on India unchanged after downgrading it by a notch to 'Baa3' from 'Baa2' in June 2020. 'Baa3' is the lowest investment grade rating by Moody's, just a notch above 'junk' status.

Recently, S&P Global, Canada-based Morningstar DBRS and Japan's Rating and Investment Information, Inc. (R&I) upgraded India's sovereign ratings. However, Fitch and now Moody's have kept their ratings on India unchanged. This has dashed the hope of the government to have an overall rating upgrade despite the global challenges.

On the impact of the US tariffs and H-1B visa fee hike, Moody's said it will have limited negative impact on India's economic growth in the near-term.

"However, it may constrain potential growth over the medium to long term by hindering India's ambitions to develop a

higher value-added export manufacturing sector.

At this stage, we expect subsequent negotiations to result in less punitive rates and domestic market-oriented foreign investment to remain robust," the rating agency said.

It added that high tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump's administration would hinder India's capacity to attract manufacturing investment.

The hike in H-1B visa fee to \$100,000 by the Trump administration is unlikely to have any significant impact on India's current account deficit.

"We do not expect other US policy shifts, including those related to new applications for skilled worker visas and potential levies on US businesses that outsource operations offshore, to significantly weigh on workers' remittances or India's services exports. Consequently, risks of a significant widening of India's current account deficits will remain limited," Moody's said.

UST forms JV with Kaynes for Semiconductor plant

BENGALURU, DHNS: UST, a global AI, and technology transformation solutions company has partnered with Kaynes Semicon, a semiconductor manufacturer, to set up an Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility at Sanand in Gujarat at an investment of RS 3,300 crore.

The investment arrangement lays the foundation for greater collaboration between the two firms as they work together to power the next era of electronics and Electric Vehicles (EVs), renewables, and consumer technology, UST said in a statement, on Monday.

"This ambitious partnership between UST and Kaynes Semicon will help shape the future of semiconductor manufacturing in India. Together, our two companies will harness the strengths of the Indian market and build a formidable foundation for the country to become a key player in the global semiconductor industry," said Krishna

Sudheendra, Chief Executive Officer, UST.

UST's worldwide presence and existing semiconductor client base make it a right partner for Kaynes Semicon, creating opportunities for new customers to leverage the benefits of Indian assembly and testing. The partnership will also take advantage of UST's digital engineering, AI-driven process improvements, and real-time data analysis, which are all essential for scale, reliability, and avoiding hidden costs.

"Our partnership with UST brings together world-class manufacturing and digital engineering expertise. This enables Kaynes Semicon to deliver advanced OSAT solutions while strengthening India's self-reliant semiconductor ecosystem," said Raghu Panicker, Chief Executive Officer, Kaynes Semicon Private Limited.

Kaynes Semicon is a wholly owned semiconductor subsidiary of Kaynes Technology India Ltd.

SUCCESS MANTRA

AI fluency will be the new standard in 2026: Udemy

BENGALURU, DHNS

Professionals who develop Artificial Intelligence (AI) fluency (using AI fluidly), and at the same time, thoughtfully and critically, understand its risks, assess outputs, and anticipate impacts, are well positioned for success and driving business outcomes, said AI-powered skills acceleration platform Udemy in its annual 2026 Global Learning & Skills Trends Report.

The report, released on Monday, highlighted that there was about 1,526% growth in Prompt Engineering skills among Udemy

learners based in India.

It also revealed that there has been an 89% surge in upskilling related to Vector Databases. Recently, data from Microsoft also showed that 59% of organisations in India are already using AI agents to automate workflows.

"In 2026, AI fluency and adaptive skills are no longer nice-to-haves. They're essential for every organisation to stay competitive as skills evolve at a dizzying pace," said Hugo Sarrazin, president and CEO of Udemy.

"But AI fluency alone isn't enough. Our data shows winning organisations are those investing



just as much in leadership, adaptability, and human judgment. AI is handling efficiency, but humans are driving effectiveness with skills

machines can't replace," he added.

Also, there's a corresponding increase in Pytest (980%) and cloud certification (108%) programmes, with the fastest growth in content consumption in AI productivity tools.

It said the increase in demand for AI skills in India goes beyond simple curiosity. Indian learners are focused on adopting new tools and building systems that make them work. There is a sharp rise in skills content consumption like System Design Interview (145%) and FastAPI (108%) that indicate a strong focus on integration, ensuring new capabilities are woven into

existing cloud and API architectures, the report stated.

"AI fluency will be the new standard in 2026. It isn't enough to have a basic understanding of technical skills anymore. True fluency comes with a holistic and in-depth understanding of AI's capabilities, emerging applications, risks, and limitations," said Vinay Pradhan, Country Manager & Senior Director Sales, India, Udemy.

Most roles require using AI every day and as such, professionals need proactive skills development for AI readiness so it can be used fluidly in daily use cases, he added.

Rupee ends 3 paise lower at 88.75/\$

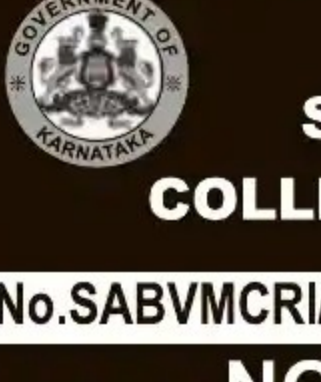
MUMBAI, PTI: Rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled for the day lower by 3 paise at 88.75 against the US dollar on Monday, on persistent foreign capital outflows and rise in risk-off sentiments.

Forex traders said rupee is hovering near its all-time low level as investors remained concerned over global trade uncertainties and impact of US visa fee hike on India's IT services exports. Moreover, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

policy meeting outcome on October 1, is expected to influence rupee and government bond movements.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.69 against the US dollar, and traded in the range of 88.69-88.81. It finally settled for the day at 88.75, registering a loss of 3 paise.

On Friday, the rupee rebounded from its all-time low to close 4 paise higher at 88.72 against the US dollar.



(An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BENGALURU

No.SABVMCRI/447/2025-26

Dated: 29.09.2025

NOTIFICATION FOR CONTRACTUAL APPOINTMENT OF TEACHING POSTS THROUGH WALK-IN-INTERVIEW IN SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BENGALURU

Applications are invited from eligible candidates who are below 70 years for filling up of the following teaching posts through walk-in interview in this Institute as per NMC norms on Contract Basis for a period of 11 months with a consolidated payment of Rs.1,10,000/- per month.

Sl. No.	Department	Professor	Associate Professor	Qualification
1	OBG	1	2	As per NMC Norms
2	General Medicine	0	2	
3	General Surgery	0	2	
4	ENT	0	1	
5	Ophthalmology	0	1	
6	Pharmacology	0	1	
7	Pathology	0	1	
8	Community Medicine	1	0	
9	Dermatology	1	0	
10	Psychiatry	0	1	
11	Anaesthesiology	0	1	
12	Radio Diagnosis	1	2	
Total		4	14	

- The period of Contract will be initially for 11 months and it will be extended on performance basis.
- The candidates will be selected through walk-in interview on Roster and seniority cum merit basis.
- The appointment to the said post will be purely on contract basis.
- Candidate should produce all the relevant documents at the time of interview.
- Candidate come for interview from 30.09.2025 in the office of Director cum Dean, SABVMCRI, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru between 11.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Sd/- Director Cum Dean,
Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College & Research Institute,
Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/3038/CCL/2025-26

Here’s why Humanities and Arts are good options

DARSHAN B M

In recent years, Indian universities have witnessed an unsettling trend where courses in Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (AHSS) are struggling to attract students. While engineering, computer science, medicine, and management seats often fill up quickly, many AHSS programmes report vacant seats semester after semester.

This decline is not just a matter of enrolment figures but reflects a deeper shift in societal values, policy priorities, and employment aspirations. The situation warrants serious reflection, as it carries implications not only for universities but also for the future of India as a knowledge-based society.

Why students are turning away

One of the key reasons behind the decline of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences is the dominance of market-driven choices. Students and their families are increasingly viewing higher education as an investment that must yield quick returns. Programmes in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) are promoted as secure pathways to employment, while Arts and Humanities are often dismissed as “non-professional” courses with little economic value.



This perception has led many to abandon disciplines that focus on culture, history, politics, or society, regardless of their broader significance. Equally concerning is the policy and institutional neglect of AHSS. Government funding and institutional priorities have leaned heavily toward science and technology, leaving the humanities and social sciences underfunded and undervalued. Research grants, innovation hubs, and infrastructure initiatives disproportionately support technical fields.

In many universities, AHSS departments struggle to update curricula, recruit qualified faculty, or integrate emerging areas such as digital humanities, media industries, or cultural studies. The absence of institutional support further discourages student interest.

Social attitudes

Social attitudes also play a crucial role. In India, careers in engineering, medicine, and civil services still enjoy prestige, while humanities and social sciences are viewed as last-resort options for those unable to secure admission into more competitive courses.

This stigma deters bright students, weakening the intellectual ecosystem that thrives on diversity of talent and perspectives. The result is a vicious cycle in which low enrolment leads to declining quality, which in turn reinforces the perception of limited value.

Another factor is employment anxiety. Career pathways for AHSS graduates are less visible compared to technical fields. While many succeed in academia, media, policy, development, and creative industries, the lack of structured placements and industry linkages makes these options uncertain. Without robust career guidance, students

hesitate to pursue these fields, even if they have the aptitude or passion.

Why these disciplines still matter

Despite the challenges, the importance of the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences cannot be overstated. These disciplines cultivate critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and civic responsibility. They prepare citizens to engage with complex social and political issues, equipping them with the ability to question, reflect, and participate meaningfully in democracy. In a country as diverse and dynamic as India, the value of such skills is immeasurable.

AHSS also provides the tools to understand culture, society, and human behaviour in ways technology alone cannot. Issues of inequality, governance, environment, and identity require nuanced perspectives that the Humanities and Social Sciences uniquely offer.

Globally, the creative and knowledge economy is expanding, with industries such as media, design, publishing, and entertainment becoming major employers. Humanities graduates, with their imagination, communication skills, and cultural literacy, are well placed to thrive in these fields.

The future of education lies in interdisciplinary. The boundaries between STEM and AHSS are becoming increasingly blurred. Artificial Intelligence requires ethicists, urban planning demands sociologists, and healthcare depends on psychologists and anthropologists.

Excluding AHSS from the national education agenda risks leaving future professionals ill-equipped to handle the ethical and social dimensions of their work. Integration, rather than separation, is the path forward.

For AHSS to regain its rightful place, urgent steps are needed. Universities must modernise curricula, build stronger partnerships with industries and civil society, and provide effective career counselling.

Policy makers should ensure adequate funding and visibility, while society must recognise education not only as job training but also as a nation-building endeavour.

The decline of AHSS in India is more than empty classrooms. It signals the narrowing of educational vision. A nation that sidelines these fields risks producing graduates without empathy, cultural understanding, or critical thinking.

(The author is an assistant professor in a Bengaluru-based college)

Why state board isn’t a preferred choice

State boards help the disadvantaged but struggle with low outcomes and declining enrolment, writes Ali Khwaja

Approximately one crore students take the Class 10 exams in India every year. States run their own Boards and curricula, but for most students, this is their first major centralised exam. It is called SSC in some states and Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) in others. In Karnataka, 8,42,173 students appeared for the SSLC this year.

Alongside state boards, private boards are also recognised. The Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE), earlier known as Senior Cambridge, remains the most popular. In Karnataka, 29,745 students took the ICSE this year, while smaller groups attempted the International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and the International Baccalaureate (IB).

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), established by the central government and initially confined to its own institutions, has expanded to thousands of private schools. This year, 93,017 students from Karnataka appeared for CBSE exams. The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), run by the Union Education Ministry, is also



expanding steadily.

Karnataka’s SSLC is administered by the Karnataka Secondary Education Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB), which conducts the exam three times a year. Students who fail in specific subjects can clear them in later attempts without losing a year. The government also supports underprivileged groups—SC, ST, and minority students—through hostels, coaching, and scholarships.

This year, the Board even considered lowering the pass mark from 35% to 33%. Yet only 62% of students cleared the exam (5,24,984), though two additional attempts raised the overall pass percentage to 74% (6,45,273). By comparison, the ICSE achieved a 99% pass rate, and the CBSE surpassed 98%

in Karnataka.

The sharp difference has raised doubts about the quality of the state system. However, SSLC schools primarily serve disadvantaged children from rural and low-income families, many of whom attend free government schools. Of the 3,21,841 students who appeared from 5,936 government schools, the pass rate was 62.7%, matching the overall average. This suggests that government schools perform on par with private SSLC schools, despite having limited resources.

Still, enrolment in State Board schools has been shrinking. In 2023–24, 1.4 crore students enrolled; by 2024–25, the number had decreased to 99 lakh. Many drop out along the way—only about eight lakh reach the Class 10

Boards. The decline is puzzling because poorer families, who typically opt for government schools, have higher birth rates.

Surveys suggest that even low-income households are aspiring to better education and are increasingly choosing private schools, assuming they offer superior academic opportunities. The SSLC’s low pass percentage reinforces this perception. Educationist P Niranjananaradhya notes that parents are steadily migrating to other boards.

Weaknesses

Several systemic problems drive this trend. Infrastructure is weak; many schools lack proper facilities for girls’ toilets. Teacher appointments are slow, vacancies remain unfilled, and in some

places, one teacher is responsible for multiple classes. Extra-curricular opportunities are rare. Some teachers are highly committed, but negligent ones often face no accountability due to their permanent employment.

Classes are frequently disrupted by census and survey duties that require teachers to be away for months. In rural areas, caste-based barriers continue to influence access to schooling. Even mid-day meals, crucial for attracting poor children, are sometimes irregular or poor in quality.

Private schools, meanwhile, advertise modern facilities—computer labs, playgrounds, swimming pools, yoga and dance classes, even foreign trips. After attracting high-paying parents, they often weed out children unlikely to perform well. Students with special needs are sometimes rejected, and weaker students are expelled before the Board exam to preserve high pass rates.

Another trend is the integration of coaching for JEE and NEET within private schools. Parents are willing to pay steep fees, convinced that an IIT or MBBS degree is the only secure path to success. This has tilted the focus away from balanced academics toward exam preparation, with schools prioritising ranks over holistic learning.

The challenges faced by Karnataka’s SSLC students highlight broader tensions in India’s education system. State boards cater to the most disadvantaged but struggle with low outcomes and declining enrolment.

Private schools often offer better facilities but tend to focus narrowly on achieving high pass percentages and providing entrance exam coaching. Until quality in government schools improves and parents are assured that affordable education can also deliver good results, the migration to private Boards is unlikely to slow.

(The author is an academic counsellor)

BULLETIN BOARD

Email marketing internship

Demandlane is hiring email marketing interns who can work from home. Students with knowledge of CSS, Debugging, Digital Marketing, Email Marketing, English Proficiency (Spoken), English Proficiency (Written), HTML, and Marketing Campaigns can apply by October 24. The stipend is Rs 7,000 - 10,000/month. Apply at: <https://shorturl.at/iePuZ>.

Graphic design internship

Global Trend is hiring a graphic design intern who can work from home. Students with knowledge of Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator can apply by October 17. The stipend is Rs 10,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/3671c6.

Educational consultant internship

Tisteps Private Limited is hiring educational consultant interns in multiple locations, including Bengaluru (Hybrid). Students with knowledge of Advanced Excel, Consulting, Data Analysis, Digital Design, and Effective Communication can apply by November 5. The stipend is Rs 20,000 – 35,000/month. Apply at: internshala.com/i/9ed04a.

Account management internship

Gosprint Logistics Private Limited is hiring key account management interns in Bengaluru. Students with knowledge of MS Excel, client relationship skills, effective communication and interpersonal skills can apply by October 23. The stipend is Rs 20,000 - 25,000/month. Apply at: <https://shorturl.at/2lT05>.

Confused between analytics and aspirations

SAHANA PRASAD

“Hello ma’am, I am utterly confused. My parents want me to enrol in an analytics programme, it’s the current trend, you know. But, my true desire is to teach mathematics to underprivileged school students.” She spoke with both fear and determination. I took a deep breath. Aah, the confusion of youth!

This brief dialogue illustrates a common situation that many Indian families face throughout the year. Young people are forced to choose between two strong influences that lead them toward either secure professional paths or their genuine life purpose.

The financial hardships and social ambitions of parents drive them to direct their children toward studying analytics, engineering, medicine or management. These fields offer job security, financial stability and social validation that indicate professional achievement.

However, the young heart speaks out when they find no inspiration in corporate boardrooms or predictive dashboards, like this one. She felt drawn to teach mathematics to schoolchildren who lack access to basic numeracy education in their schools. Education held a special meaning for her because it represented the power to empower disadvantaged people through knowledge acquisition.

The tug of war between what parents want their children to do and what young people truly want to do has only intensified with time. The combination of economic stress and social expectations drives young people toward secure careers; yet, their exposure to fresh concepts,

social activism, and inspirational figures encourages them to seek lives with greater significance. The internal voices get suppressed during their youth until they experience professional dissatisfaction in their middle age.

“Many of my final year students are torn between the desire to step into the professional world and to pursue their passion. They now have access to many stories where following passion has led to success, albeit a bit late. But parental pressures are strong; therefore, the dilemma,” sums up Karthikeyan V, who teaches Computer Science in a well-known city college.

A degree in a proven field provides students with a sure path to a good income and excellent worldwide career prospects. Parents view this educational path as a safeguarding measure because it provides their children with financial security, shielding them from the hardships they experienced during their youth.

However, their inner passion also requires acknowledgement, and it cannot be disregarded forever. A person who wants to teach math to disadvantaged students may experience discomfort when working in analytics, as it feels like wearing someone else’s professional role. The position provides stability, but it lacks the sense of contentment. Society faces negative consequences when people are forced to suppress their genuine interests and desires.

Our society faces a fundamental problem because we have not established clear standards for what constitutes success. There is a need to establish equal worth for service-oriented careers alongside corporate positions. Many Indian parents evaluate their children’s

success through their income levels, professional designations, and international work experience.

However, youngsters today base their evaluation of success on meaningful accomplishments, and the opposing views about success between traditional and modern definitions produce deep emotional pain, as my student demonstrated.

Time might provide the solution to this problem. Modern career choices lack the enduring nature that previous generations experienced when selecting their professional paths. A delayed pursuit of passion does not necessarily mean the passion will be lost forever. I took up music and the Veena after completing 33 years as a faculty member, and by transitioning into a visiting faculty role, I can balance both. But I definitely couldn’t have taken this decision in my early career, as that would mean giving up one.

The student required support to understand that her teaching aspirations were honourable, while her parents’ worries about her future were also legitimate. I told her as much and that she could pursue both paths in her life. She will eventually find a way to unite her two interests, demonstrating that present-day uncertainty often leads to future understanding.

Our society stands at a crossroads between pursuing financial security and creating opportunities for meaningful service and to others. The confusion of youth prompts us to confront the essential question about our societal values.

(The author is an academic)

Queries? Suggestions? Feedback? Mail us: dheeducation@deccanherald.co.in

SANJAY LAUL

The first hiring cycles of the generative-AI era are reshaping what students study. Employer surveys and labour data point to strong demand for degrees in AI and data, cybersecurity, healthcare, teacher education, and power and electrical engineering. The signals are consistent across regions. Technology is spreading fast, and human-centric services are facing chronic shortages.

The World Economic Forum’s 2025 Future of Jobs survey, covering more than 1,000 large employers, ranks AI and big data as the fastest-rising skill groups, with networks and cybersecurity close behind. Employers also expect creative and analytical thinking to become increasingly important. Nearly two in five core skills are set to change by 2030.

LinkedIn’s 2025 “Jobs on the Rise” lists AI engineers among the world’s fastest-growing roles, underscoring the shift from general software hiring to AI-fluent talent.

Students should read labour signals, not headlines. Select a program that develops robust skills in AI, data, security, or healthcare. Then add communication and teamwork, because employers are screening for both.

Courses heating up

- **AI, Data Science, and Computer Science:** Degree and master’s pathways focused on machine learning, data



engineering, and applied AI are clear winners. Companies report a rapid adoption of AI at work, and they cite skill gaps as a top barrier to its effective execution.

- **Cybersecurity:** Organisations face a large and growing talent shortfall. The latest ISC2 study estimates 5.5 million people work in cyber world-wide, yet the workforce gap is roughly 4.8 million. Programs in security engineering, cloud security, and AI security are in demand.
- **Healthcare and nursing:** Health systems are understaffed. The WHO projects an 11-million global health-worker shortfall by 2030, and the U.S. projects steady registered-nurse employment growth through 2034.
- **Teacher education and EdTech:** Education systems face a chronic shortage of teachers. UNESCO estimates the world will need about 44 million additional primary and secondary teachers by 2030. Universities and ministries are also publishing guidance to integrate AI responsibly into

teaching and learning.

- **Electrical, power, and energy systems:** AI’s growth depends on physical infrastructure. The IEA expects global data centre electricity use to roughly double by 2030, while U.S. power demand hits records as data centre build-outs accelerate. That supports degrees in electrical engineering, power systems, grid modernisation, and energy management.

The AI economy runs on people and power. We need AI scientists and cyber defenders, but we also need grid engineers and technicians to keep data centres online. Students who pair digital skills with domain depth will have an edge.

Human-centric roles stay resilient

Automation is on the rise, but most jobs involve tasks that can be both automated and non-automated. McKinsey estimates that current technologies, including generative AI, could automate activities that account for 60–70% of employees’ time. Human skills,

judgment, and care still matter.

Mental health care is in high demand. WHO estimates around 970 million people worldwide struggle with a mental health condition, which means there is a steady need for trained psychologists, counsellors, and social workers.

Advice for the post-ChatGPT generation

For students considering programs now, look for a program that includes hands-on projects, clinical hours, and capstones tied to real-world problems. Even in non-tech degrees, students must seek courses on AI literacy, data ethics, and cybersecurity basics. Sector bodies and universities are issuing guidance to help educators adopt AI responsibly in the classroom.

The winning profile is T-shaped. Go deep in one field that employers need, like AI, nursing, or teaching. Then learn to use AI tools to work faster, document better and collaborate across borders. That is how graduates signal job-readiness.

AI is not squeezing degree value. It is reshaping the mix. Programs in AI and data, cybersecurity, healthcare, teacher education, and energy systems are positioned for strong demand over the next five years. Students who combine technical fluency with human skills will be best placed to thrive.

(The author is the founder of an overseas education consultancy)

India reassert their Asia Cup supremacy

Abhishek, Kuldeep emerge standout performers

R KAUSHIK
DUBAI

Seventh heaven. That's where India catapulted themselves to at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, never mind that there was no trophy to celebrate their seventh successive victory at the T20 Asia Cup.

Carrying overwhelming favourites' tag, all-win India cruised through the continental bash without moving beyond third gear. Even at below their best, they were too formidable for the chasing pack; Sri Lanka presented them their stiffest challenge and Pakistan threatened at various stages of Sunday's title clash but like champion sides invariably do, India responded with brutal beauty when it came to the crunch, riding on the sum of their parts that was greater than the whole to win the Asia Cup for a record-extending ninth time.

The obvious stars were exceptional opener Abhishek Sharma and magical left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav, with 314 runs and 17 wickets respectively. The former set the tone innings after innings with his fearlessness and controlled fury, the latter took the diametrically opposite route in the middle overs by using guile and de-

ception rather than violence as his calling card. India rode piggyback on their sustained brilliance, but while this duo will understandably attract most of the encomiums, this campaign wasn't about them alone.

Suryakumar Yadav and his deputy Shubman Gill, on his return to international 20-over cricket, had a tournament to forget if measured purely by numbers. But the captain was instrumental in ensuring that despite the drama and the unpleasantness around them, his charges were focussed on cricket and excised themselves from potentially decisive distractions. Gill, who was unrecognisable as the behemoth which amassed 754 in five Tests in England, barely hit his straps but in Abhishek's company, he put on successive stands of 105 and 77 at a frenetic pace, which struck terror in the hearts of all opponents.

Great sides shade half the contest in the mind, before the protagonists even get on the park. India seem to be occupying the heads of their rivals rent-free, with very good reason. There is an aura of invincibility about them as they extend their preparations for the defence of the World Cup at home early next year.

Since their heist against South Africa in Bridgetown in June last year, they have stacked up a 24-3 record in T20Is. Along the way, they have sometimes had to scrap and fight

SKY's match fees to go to armed forces, Pahalgam victims

India captain Suryakumar Yadav will donate his entire match fee from the just-concluded Asia Cup to the country's armed forces and the victims of Pahalgam terror attack.

India defeated bitter foes Pakistan by five wickets in the final to win the trophy on Sunday night. "I have decided to donate my match fees from this tournament to support our Armed Forces and the families of the victims who suffered from the Pahalgam terror attack. You always

remain in my thoughts. Jai Hind," the 35-year-old said. India players earn to Rs 4 lakh per T20 match, which means that Surya would be donating a total of Rs 28 lakh from the seven games played in the continental event.

Rs 21 crore award

The BCCI, meanwhile, declared that the Indian cricket team and its support staff will be presented a prize money of Rs 21 crore for its unbeaten run in the just-concluded tournament.

and claw their way back from the beyond, but so unshakable is their belief and such is the faith they have in each other that they have never approached any cause as a losing one.

That was never more in evidence than in Sunday's nervy final which was overshadowed by the post-match fiasco that resulted in the champion team not being presented with the trophy that was rightfully theirs. First in the field, and then when they were chasing 147 for glory, India were put under immense pressure. At 113 for one with nearly eight overs to go, Pakistan seemed set to bat India out of the final when Kuldeep

weaved his magic and the other bowlers rallied around him. Pakistan lost nine for 33; a snooker maximum now stood between India and title No. 9.

Say what you may of Pakistan, but when they are fired up, they are more than a handful. Once they dismissed Abhishek early, they were all over India like a bad rash, winking out the beleaguered Suryakumar and Gill to leave their bitter foes gasping at 20 for three. The situation called for calmness, for commonsense, for composure and poise, for maturity and situational awareness, for tact and placement and agility and power and the not-so-common trait of knowing which bowlers and areas to target. Even without the pressure of a final and who the opponent was, it was a tall order. Delivered with aplomb by a 22-year-old 22!-left-hander who is now the toast of a nation.

Tilak Varma has two centuries in T20Is, but his unbeaten 69 has taken him where those tons didn't—to cricketing stratosphere, straight into the hearts of millions. The unflappable Hyderabad with a computer for a brain masterminded one of the more popular modern-day chases. His knock, more than anything else, defined India's campaign -- unyielding, unbowed, untamed.

Top run-scorers

Abhishek Sharma
(Ind): 314 runs,
Avg: 44.85, SR: 200

Pathum Nissanka
(SL): 261 runs,
Avg: 43.50, SR: 160.12

Sahibzada Farhan
(Pak): 217 runs,
Avg: 31.00, SR: 116.04



Abhishek Sharma



Kuldeep Yadav

Top wicket-takers

Kuldeep Yadav
(Ind): 17 wickets,
Avg: 9.29, Econ: 6.27

Shaheen Shah Afridi
(Pak): 10 wickets,
Avg: 16.40, Econ: 6.60

Junaid Siddique (UAE):
9 wickets, Avg: 6.33, Econ: 6.33



Indian players act like holding up the trophy, which was not presented to them after they refused to receive it from ACC chairman Mohsin Naqvi. AFP

BCCI to lodge 'strong protest' with ICC

MUMBAI, PTI

The BCCI will lodge a "very strong protest" in the next ICC meeting in November against Asian Cricket Council chief Mohsin Naqvi, who walked away with the Asia Cup trophy after the Indian team refused to accept it from him in Dubai.

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia (in pic) justified the team's refusal saying that India cannot accept the trophy from a person who is "waging a war against the country."

India defeated Pakistan by five wickets in the final on Sunday with Tilak Varma hitting an unbeaten 69 to be adjudged the Player of the Match for the summit clash.

"So far as the trophy is concerned, trophy distribution, India cannot take the trophy from the person who is waging a war against our country," Saikia said.

"We have taken a decision not to accept the trophy but that does not allow the gentleman to take away the trophy and the medals to his hotel," he added.

"This is unexpected, very childish in nature and we will launch a very strong protest with ICC in the forthcoming ICC meeting to be held in Dubai in the first week of November."

Naqvi is also the head of the Pakistan Cricket Board and Interior Minister of his country. Saikia praised the Indian team for their unbeaten run in the competition.

"India won all the seven matches at the group stage. India won all the three matches. Thereafter in the group of four they won the matches and finally also," he said.

"Out of these seven matches, India won against Pakistan 3-0. So this is a big victory and (a) big time cricket achievement for the country."

On the team's decision to play the tournament despite massive criticism of engagement with Pakistan in the backdrop of Pahalgam terror attack, Saikia said the Board has followed the policy set by the Indian government. "...when it is a bilateral tour-



nament, India is not going to play against Pakistan or any other hostile country and BCCI has been doing it for last 12 to 15 years," he said.

"And now the Government has said that in multinational tournaments -- Asia Cup is a multinational tournament -- or an international tournament where a lot of other countries are also involved. In those tournaments, Indian team, whether it is cricket or football, we have to play."

"Otherwise, our other games will suffer or the federation will be banned by international federations, so we followed the policy of the central government. We participated inspite of the fact that there are some protests or some resistance from some quarters," he continued. Saikia said beating Pakistan across three games of this Asia Cup will bring "happiness to our people".

"Today, with this handsome win over Pakistan and the thumping victory of 3-0, I am sure we will bring a lot of happiness to our people," he said.

"The country is really proud of the performance of Indian cricket team."



I think this is one thing which I have never seen since I started playing and following cricket that a champion team is denied a trophy. I mean that too a hard-earned one. It's not like it happened easily. It was a hard earned tournament win.

SURYAKUMAR YADAV, India skipper



We went to pose with the trophy (photo shoot) on our own because we wanted to fulfil our obligations. We stood there and took our medals. I don't want to use harsh words but they've been very disrespectful.

SALMAN AGHA, Pakistan skipper

CRICKET WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Indians ready to rock and roll

Harmanpreet and Co kick off their campaign against Sri Lanka

GUWAHATI, PTI

With home advantage and current form on its side, the Indian women's cricket team will look to end a 47-year wait for its maiden ICC title when it takes the field at the ODI World Cup starting with a clash against Sri Lanka here on Tuesday.

Ranked World No. 3, the Harmanpreet Kaur-led India will look to make the most of their familiarity with conditions in the 13th edition of the tournament, that is returning to India after 12 years.

The global showpiece will feature eight top ranked teams



Indian women during a training session, ahead of their World Cup match against Sri Lanka in Guwahati on Monday. PTI

-- Australia, England, India, New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan -- competing in 28 league matches in a round-robin format across four venues in India and one in Colombo for a record prize money of USD 13.88 million.

The prize pool is also nearly four times higher than 2022 and surpasses the men's 2023 edition (USD 10 million) to be in line with the ICC's push for pay parity and growth of women's cricket.

The Sri Lankan capital will host 11 round-robin matches, including Pakistan's seven league stage games and the marquee clash against India on October 5.

One semifinal and the final are also scheduled there, should Pakistan go all the way. On current form, India ar-

rive with confidence, having recently beaten England in both ODI and T20I series.

They also ended a worrying losing streak against Australia in a recent tournament build-up series. The Indians nearly chased down 413 in the final ODI in New Delhi against the team which is chasing a record-extending eighth title.

Indian vice-captain Smriti Mandhana remains the fulcrum of the batting unit, enjoying the form of her life at the top of order. The left-hander has already struck four ODI centuries, including two back-to-back against Australia, this year. She averages 66.28 with a strike rate of 115.85.

Playing her fifth World Cup, Harmanpreet, who reserves her best for big tournaments, carries a tournament average of over 50. She smashed a century

against England recently and followed it up with a fifty against Australia. Jemimah Rodrigues, back from injury, scored a composed 66 in the warm-up against England and adds stability in the middle order.

Return of Renuka Singh from an injury would bolster the pace attack as she would spearhead the bowling on flat beds across the venues.

Twenty-two-year old Kranti Goud, with only six caps to her name, has shown promise with her pace and variations including a searing yorker.

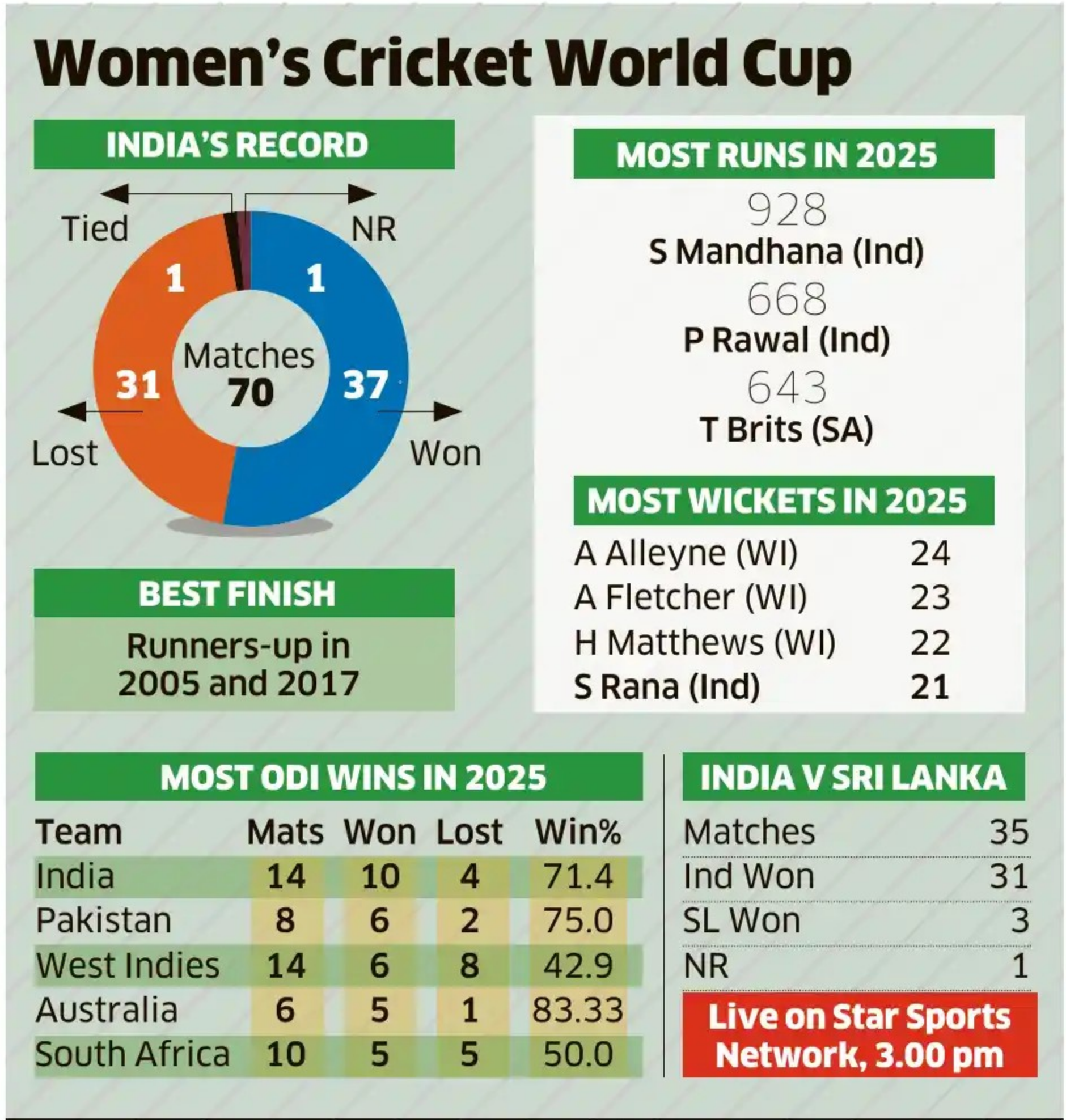
However, India's pace department remains thin on experience. Renuka aside, the other pacers-- Kranti, Arundhati Reddy and Amanjot -- have played just 25 ODIs between them and the bowling has conceded 300-plus scores in recent past.

Injuries are also a concern

with Reddy having left the field on a wheelchair after being struck in a warm-up game, while Amanjot also had an injury scare before she made a return in the last warm-up against New Zealand.

The spin line-up led by Deepthi Sharma, Radha Yadav, Sneha Rana and N Sree Charani, is tailor-made for home conditions but it remains to be seen how much turn would be on offer in the flat decks.

Squads: India: Harmanpreet Kaur (captain), Smriti Mandhana (vice captain), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh, Uma Chetry, Renuka Singh Thakur, Deepthi Sharma, Sneha Rana, Sree Charani, Radha Yadav, Amanjot Kaur, Arundhati Reddy, Kranti Goud. Sri Lanka: Chamari Athapaththu (captain), Hasini Perera, Vishmi Gunaratne, Harshitha Samarawickrama, Kavisha Dilhari, Nilakshi De Silva, Anushika Sanjeevani, Imesha Dulani, Dewmi Vihanga, Piumi Watthana, Inoka Ranaweera, Sugandika Kumari, Udesika Prabodani, Malki Madara, Achini Kulasekari.



Compiled by Arun Gopalakrishnan

Will decide XI according to the conditions: Kaur

GUWAHATI, PTI: India might just have to revisit their spin-oriented strategy for the ICC Women's World Cup opener against Sri Lanka here on Tuesday, as the ACA Barsapara Stadium pitch is likely to retain its batting friendly nature with little assistance for the slow bowlers.



Harmanpreet Kaur

The pitch hosted two matches of the Rajasthan Royals during the IPL 2025 in March, with the Royals scoring 151/9 and 182/9 in those games.

"Barsapara wicket never assisted spin. It has always been a good sporting wicket and there should be no difference this time," one of the curators told PTI, hinting that it could be a high-scoring game if the batters apply themselves.

With the city under a spell of heat, dew is not expected to be a concern. "There has not been much dew these days, it's high heat," added a groundsman.

Spinners have traditionally been India's strength at home, and the think tank had relied on four spinners and a solitary pacer (Kranti Goud) against world champions Australia in the first ODI of the bilateral series leading up to the tournament.

However, with the return of pacer Renuka Singh after a six-months break because of a stress fracture, the dynamics have changed.

Pacer Woakes quits international cricket

LONDON, PTI

England all-rounder Chris Woakes on Monday announced his retirement from international cricket following his omission from the Ashes squad.

In his 15-year career as an England cricketer, Woakes, a pace-bowling all-rounder, played 62 Tests scoring 2034 runs and taking 192 wickets.

The 36-year-old has also played 122 ODIs and 33 T20Is, making 1524 and 147 runs respectively. He has taken 204 wickets jointly in white ball formats.

"The moment has come, and I've decided that the time is right for me to retire from international cricket," Woakes said.

Woakes' final Test came



Chris Woakes. REUTERS

against India at The Oval when he came out to bat with his arm in a sling, attempting futilely to prevent the visitors from etching a series-levelling win in the fifth Test.

"Playing for England was something I aspired to do since I was a kid dreaming in the back garden, and I feel incredibly fortunate to have lived out those dreams."

Europeans complete emotional triumph of Ryder Cup

FARMINGDALE (US), AFP: Europe fought off a thrilling United States rally to win an emotional Ryder Cup on Sunday with Irishman Shane Lowry securing the trophy on a dramatic six-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole.

Lowry's putt lifted him into a tie with American Russell Henley for the half-point that clinched Europe keeping the trophy and two late ties gave the visitors a 15-13 victory.

"That was the hardest couple of hours of my whole life," a tearful Lowry said. "I just can't believe that putt went in. I stood over it going 'This is it.' "I said walking down 18, 'I have a chance to do the coolest thing in my life.' The Ry-

der Cup means everything to me... To do it out there today in front of everyone -- it was so hard out there."

Europe's triumph was their 11th in the past 15 Cup show-downs and their fourth on the road in that span, the first away victory since Europe's 2012 "Miracle at Medinah."

"It was probably the most stressful 12 hours of my life," Europe captain Luke Donald said. "I didn't think they'd be this tough on Sunday. They fought so hard. But we got it done."

Americans lead the all-time rivalry 27-16-2 but Europe led 13-9-1 since the roster was expanded beyond Britain and Ireland in 1979.



South United FC's Euhank Kuruvilla (left) battles for possession against FC Agniputhra's Riswan Ali Edakkavil at BFS on Monday.

DH PHOTO/ BK JANARDHAN

Kaviarasan guides USFC home

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kaviarasan K scored a first-half hat-trick as United Stars FC edged Kodagu FC 3-2 in the KSFA Super Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Monday.

Kaviarasan opened the scoring in the 17th minute and doubled his tally 17 minutes later. He then completed his hat-trick during the first-half added time.

In the day's other games, Kickstart FC beat HAL FC 1-0 on the back of V Vignesh's lone goal, while FC Agniputhra and South United FC played out a thrilling 2-2 draw.

Results: United Stars FC 3 (Kaviarasan K 17th, 34th, 45th+2) bt Kodagu FC 2 (Lalkrawmsawia 11th, 90th); FC Agniputhra 2 (Farhan Fayaz 20th, 32nd) vs South United FC: Makamayum Daniyal (84th, Mohammed Kaif 90th); Kickstart FC 1 (V Vignesh 52nd) bt HAL FC 0.

IN BRIEF

Chhetri joins national camp

► Talismanic striker Sunil Chhetri and his two Bengaluru FC teammates – Rahul Bheke and Roshan Singh Naorem – on Monday joined the national men's football team's preparatory camp in Bengaluru ahead of the upcoming AFC Asian Cup qualifier matches against Singapore, reports PTI from New Delhi.

BTC elects new stewards

► K Uday Eswaran, Shankar Balu and Arvind S Katarki were elected the stewards of the Bangalore Turf Club during its 64th Annual General Meeting held on Monday, reports DHNS.

Stewards: K Uday Eswaran, Shankar Balu, Arvind S Katarki

Committee Members: MC Manjunath Urs, K Shasha Bindu Das

Board of Appeal Members: V Jagannath, Satish N Gowda, Vivek G Ubhayakar, K Jayaram, Ranjan Chona

Clara for Be My Guest Plate

HYDERABAD SELECTIONS

Sreekant-trained Clara, to be ridden by Ashhad, is fancied to win the Be My Guest Plate, the feature event of the Hyderabad races to be run over a sprint at the races on Tuesday.

First race starts at 1.20 pm.

1. **Star Of Gwalior Plate - 1200m:** Fortune Art 1, Torrentina 2, London Bell 3.

2. **Beloved Prince Plate (Div II) - 1400m:** La Fleuriere 1, State Man 2, Gusto's Baby 3.

3. **Land Of Glory Plate (Div I) - 1200m:** Colt Pistol 1, Politics 2, Nkal-anzinzi 3.

4. **Beloved Prince Plate (Div II) - 1400m:** Sharanga 1, Bestie 2, Golden Bourbon 3.

5. **Land Of Glory Plate (Div II) - 1200m:** Top In Class 1, Swiss Girl 2, Star Medal 3.

6. **Be My Guest Plate - 1200m:** Clara 1, Crimson Flame 2, My Challenge 3.

7. **Land Of Glory Plate (Div-III) - 1200m:** American Flame 1, Inderdharush 2, Blue Pantheress 3.

Day's best: Sharanga. **Jackpot:** 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7. **Treble:** 2, 3 & 4. **Hit treble:** 5, 6 & 7.

ON TV

CRICKET

Women's World Cup: India vs Sri Lanka (3 pm). **LIVE on Star Sports Network.**

FOOTBALL

Champions League: Kairat Almaty vs Real Madrid (10:15 pm), Chelsea vs Benfica, Galatasaray vs Liverpool, Pafos vs Bayern Munich (12:30 am, Wednesday night). **LIVE on Sony Sports Network.**

SWIMMING

Asian Aquatics C'ships: Day 3, finals (6 pm). **LIVE on DD Sports.**

PARA ATHLETICS

World C'ships: Day 4 (9:30 am). **LIVE on DD Sports.**

AQUATICS ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Indian divers make historic splash

Srihari bags another silver to extend medal tally to four

ADITYA K HALDER
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

Bengaluru's Srihari Nataraj extended his medal run at the Asian Aquatics Championships to four on Monday as he bagged the silver medal in a thrilling 4x200m freestyle relay final here. India clinched four medals – including three bronze – on the day, taking their tally to seven while Indian divers scripted history.

In the men's freestyle relay, Srihari's state-mate Aneesh Gowda, along with Sajjan Prakash, Shoaan Ganguly, held on to the second spot (7:23.38 seconds) from start to finish while Malaysia dangerously closed in in the final leg. Malaysia Yeun Chuen Lim also caught up with Srihari at the finish line. However, the 24-year-old Kannadiga ensured India took the second place by mere 0.05 seconds while Malaysia took bronze at 7:23.43.

The nail-biter overshadowed a historic moment for India diving as Manipur duo of Individer Sairem and Willson Singh Ningthoujam clinched India's first-ever medal in the men's synchronised 10m springboard event since the inception of the event in 1980.

The Indian pair totalled 300.66 points across five rounds to clinch the bronze medal behind powerhouse China (381.75) and Malaysia (329.73). This was also a watershed moment for Indian diving, who has struggled for recognition due to lack of medals at the international level.

Kushagra, Rishabh win
Meanwhile swimming's med-

al show continued as Rishabh Das and Kushagra Rawat grabbed bronze medals in individual 200m backstroke and 1500m freestyle. Rawat, who clocked 15.30.88, stayed with the leading pack of Vietnam's Huy Hoang Nguyen (gold) and Uzbekistan's Ilya Sibirtsev but the experienced swimmers' endurance was too much to take for the Indian, who never allowed Japan's Hinata Ando to catch up. India are down at 9th place with seven medals (three silver and four bronze) but are yet to win a gold.

Results: Swimming: Men: 50m freestyle: Ali Tamer Hassan (QAT) 22.45, 1: Gleb Kovalenya (KAZ) 22.81, 2: Mu Lun Chuang (TPE) 22.82, 3. **50m breaststroke:** Haiyang Qin (CHN) 26.59s, 1: Alibot Myrzamuratov (KAZ) 28.04, 2: Mohamed Mahmoud Mohamed (QAT) 28.09, 3. **200m backstroke:** Gukailai Wang (CHN) 1:59.78s, 1: Rui Yoshida (JPN) 2:01.66, 2: Rishabh Das (IND) 2:02.64, 3. **1500m freestyle:** Huy Hoang Nguyen (VIE) 15:15.01s, 1: Ilya Sibirtsev (UZB) 15:23.35, 2: Kushagra Rawat (IND) 15:30.88, 3. **4x200m freestyle relay:** China 7:21.05s, 1: India 7:23.38, 2: Malaysia 7:23.43, 3. **Women: 50m freestyle:** Mingyu Luo (CHN) 25.53s, 1: Yi Chen Chiu (TPE) 25.57, 2: Sum Yiu Li (HKG) 25.64, 3. **50m backstroke:** Wui Kiu Man (HKG) 32.04s, 1: Wing Yi Claire Cheung (HKG) 32.26, 2: Yi Chen Chiu (TPE) 32.29, 3. **200m backstroke:** Misaki Kasahara (JPN) 2:12.09s, 1: Jiawei Li (CHN) 2:12.13, 2: Mia Millar (THA) 2:16.51, 3. **400m medley:** Yanjun Zhou (CHN) 4:44.88s, 1: Koharu Nakazawa (JPN) 4:47.40, 2: Thi My Tien Vo (VIE) 4:49.81, 3. **4x200m freestyle relay:** China 8:14.79, 1: Hong Kong 8:16.93, 2: Thailand 8:32.17, 3. **Diving: Men: Synchronised 10m platform:** Zhangyu Cui/ Zhanhong Xu (CHN) 381.75pts, 1: Bertrand Rhodit Lises/ Enrique M. Harold (MAS) 329.73, 2: Individer Sairem/ Willson Sing Ningthoujam (IND) 300.66, 3. **Women: 1m springboard:** Linxi Ye (CHN) 264.35pts, 1: Sijia Li (CHN) 253.10, 2: Ziyi Wang (THA) 218.90, 3. **Synchronised 10m platform:** Xiaohan Wu/ Zihan Liu (CHN) 317.04pts, 1: Nur Muhammad Abrar Raji/ Nurul Farisya A. Affendi (MAS) 235.86, 2: Gladies Larissa G. Kore/ Linar Betiliana (INA) 209.58, 3.



Individer Sairem (left) and Willson Singh Ningthoujam won India's first-ever medal (bronze) in men's synchronised 10m platform at the Asian Aquatics Championships in Ahmedabad on Monday.

My biggest international medal: Srihari

ADITYA K HALDER
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

"I am going to enjoy some ice-creams!" This was the first thought of Srihari Nataraj (in pic) when you asked him what's next following a gruelling day that saw him compete in five races in one day. And he had earned the right to enjoy after the Indian ace swimmer won a chunk of medals out of them!

Two silver (200m freestyle and 50m backstroke) and a bronze (men's 4x100m relay medley) on the opening day of the Asian Aquatics Championships was a satisfying outcome for Srihari, whose years of hard work finally yielded results.

"This is probably my biggest international medal," the

24-year-old swimmer told *DH*. "I have been finishing outside the medal position at so many major events. Whether it is Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, Youth Olympics, World Junior, I have been fifth or sixth in every one of them. So, this is a big medal for me."

This showing was in the making for sometime now as Srihari has been in hot form this season with two national records (100m and 200m freestyle) at the World University Games last July. However, the Asian success had its fair share of trouble as things didn't go according to plan in the morning.

With 61 events taking place across four disciplines in two

weeks in Ahmedabad, organisers have scheduled the heats for an 8 am start followed by medal rounds in the evening due to logistical issues. The change in schedule admittedly threw the swimmer "off a bit" as he finished seventh in the 200m freestyle heats, worryingly almost three seconds slower than the leader and eventual gold medalist Haibo Xu of China at that point.

"A lot of factors came into play. I was up at 5am, which was new for me because we generally don't swim tournaments so early. But I understand the logistical issues due to which we had to start early. Personally, I like to start off a meet with

a good heat swim, where I am the top seed or top three going into the final. So today's heats did throw me off quite a bit but the gap in between before the finals helped me to focus on the process and not worry about the race," he said.

While he cut down the gap to 1.64s in the final, there could be an added bonus too as his final timing (1:48.47 seconds) is within the sports ministry's newly-minted guidelines for Asian Games qualification. The mandate requires one to have a performance equivalent to top six at the last Asiad.

His coach Nihar Ameen is a happy man too but knows the challenges ahead are taller.



Bopanna, Yuzuki knock out top seeds

TOKYO, AGENCIES: In a season-best performance, veteran Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna and his Japanese partner Takeru Yuzuki stormed into the Japan open final after stunning top-seeded American duo of Christian Harrison and Evan King in a tense semifinal clash on Monday.

The Indo-Japanese wild card pair displayed remarkable grit to upset Harrison and King 4-6, 6-3, 18-16 in a match that kept the crowd on the edge of their seats.

Alcaraz battles on
Carlos Alcaraz battled back to beat Casper Ruud 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 on Monday in Tokyo and reach his 10th final of a spectacular season, emulating fellow Spaniard Rafael Nadal.

Alcaraz will face his Laver Cup conqueror Taylor Fritz in Tuesday's decider of the Japan Open, while Jannik Sinner beat Fabian Marozsan in straight sets Monday to secure a third straight China Open semifinal.

Indians make a clean sweep in 10m air rifle event

NEW DELHI, PTI: Ojasvi Thakur won the gold medal to lead India's all-podium finish in the 10m air rifle women's event at the ISSF Junior World Cup as Hrudya Shri Kondur and Shambhavi Kshirsagar secured silver and bronze respectively here on Monday.

Ojasvi Thakur emerged as the champion with a score of 252.7, firing two brilliant 10.9s on her 8th and 16th shots to seal the gold. Hrudya Shri finished second with score of 250.2, while qualification leader Shambhavi completed the all-India podium with 229.4 at Karni Singh Shooting Range.

The Indian trio had already stamped its authority in qualification, finishing as the top three with Shambhavi leading on 632.0, Ojasvi following with 631.9, and Hrudya third. Croatia's Anamarija Turk, who had qualified eighth, was the closest challenger but placed fourth in the final with 206.6.

The rest of the finalists included individual athletes



Women's 10m air rifle winner Ojasvi (centre) poses along with silver-medallist Hrudya (left) and bronze-medallist Shambhavi on Monday.

Lidia Vasileva (184.5), Varvara Kardakova (164.2), and Maria Kruglova (142.8), as well as Slovakia's Kamila Novotna (122.1).

In the men's 10m air rifle final, India's Himanshu, who had topped qualification with 633.7, kept his form intact to clinch gold with a superb 250.9. Individual Neutral Athlete Dmitrii Pimenov followed with 249.9 for silver, while India's Abhinav Shaw claimed bronze with 228.4.

India's Rinku, Gurjar make it 1-2

Hosts move to sixth spot with 2 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze

NEW DELHI, PTI

Rinku Hooda upstaged world record holder compatriot Sundar Singh Gurjar as Indians finished 1-2 in the men's javelin throw F46 event on the third day of the World Para Athletics Championships here on Monday.

Rinku won his maiden World Championships title with a throw of 66.37m while Gurjar sent his spear to 64.76m to take the silver. Another Indian in the fray, Ajeet Singh, was fourth with 61.77m. Cuban Guillermo Varona Gonzalez was third with 63.34m.

F46 classification is for athletes with arm deficiency, impaired muscle power or impaired passive range of movement in arms, with athletes competing in a standing position.



India's Dayawanti threw 27.94m to break the Asian record but finished fourth in the women's discus throw F64 final at the World Para Athletics Championships. PTI

After Rinku and Gurjar's 1-2 finish, India now has two gold, two silver and one bronze in the Championships.

India moved up to sixth spot in the medal table led by China (4 gold, 7 silver, 3 bronze). Brazil (4-7-2), Poland (4-0-4), Switzerland (3-0-1) and Netherlands (3-0-0) are at second, third, fourth and fifth spots respectively.

Dayawanti fourth
Among other Indians in the fray on Monday, Dayawanti had the best placing, a 27.94m

effort on her last attempt saw her finish fourth in the women's discus throw F64 final on Monday morning.

It fetched her the Asian Record but 1.51m separated her and the bronze medalist Alicia Guerrero.

Ayush Verma was fifth in the men's shot put F5 final, his best effort of 7.23m falling 97cm short of the bronze medal distance attained by Ales Kisy of Czechia.

Result: Final: Men: Javelin Throw: Rinku (Ind) 66.37, 1: Sundar Singh (Ind) 66.76, 2: Guillermo Varona (Cub) 63.34, 3.

Varun, Himanshi clinch men's, women's singles titles

BENGALURU, DHNS: Varun Kashyap and Himanshi Chowdhary clinched the men's and women's singles titles respectively in the 8th JTTA State-ranking table tennis tournament at the BMS Engineering College here on Monday.

Varun started off on a positive note before surviving a mid-match slump against Sanjay Madhavan to script a thrilling 12-10, 8-11, 11-8, 7-11, 11-5, 11-5 win and take home the title.

LOCAL TABLE TENNIS



From left: Varun, Abhinav and Himanshi pose with their spoils.

Results: All finals: Men: Singles: Varun Kashyap bt Sanjay Madhavan 12-10, 8-11, 11-8, 7-11, 11-5, 11-5. **U-19 Boys' Singles:** Abhinav Murthy bt Atharva Nawarange 11-5, 6-11, 13-11, 11-7, 7-11, 11-8. **Women: Singles:** Himanshi Chowdhary bt Trupti Purohit 13-11, 11-2, 9-11, 11-4, 11-8. **U-19 Girls' Singles:** Himanshi Chowdhary bt Irene Anna Subhash 9-11, 11-3, 5-11, 11-7, 11-8, 11-2. **Event Team Championship:** Canara Bank bt Spinarc 3-1.



Fans in Kazakhstan will be queuing up to see superstar Kylian Mbappe when Kairat Almaty host European heavyweights Real Madrid in the Champions League group clash on Tuesday. REUTERS

Tottenham already went inside the Arctic Circle to face Bodo/Glint – winning in the Europa League semifinals in May – and returns for the Norwegian champion's first home game in the main stage of the Champions League.

The standout game on Wednesday is Barcelona host-

ing PSG in a matchup immortalised by "La Remontada" in 2017.

Barcelona superstar Lamine Yamal seems fit after a groin injury to start his first game since placing second in the Ballon d'Or voting to Ousmane Dembele, who is still out for PSG after being

injured on France duty this month. While Dembele skips this reunion in the city where he spent six years before coming to Paris, PSG coach Luis Enrique goes back to the club he led to his first Champions League title, in 2015.

A game to watch should be Atletico Madrid hosting Eintracht Frankfurt judging by their freewheeling wins in domestic league games Saturday.

Yamal steers Barca
Lamine Yamal returned from injury to help Barcelona beat Real Sociedad 2-1 on Sunday and move top of La Liga by one point, reports AFP from Barcelona

After Real Madrid were thrashed 5-2 by rivals Atletico Madrid in a derby on Saturday, Hansi Flick's side had the chance to claim pole position above Xabi Alonso's side.

MPCA crowned champions

BENGALURU, DHNS: Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association emerged champions of the Dr (Capt) K Thimmappiah memorial tournament on the basis of first innings lead after their final against KSCA Secretary's XI ended in a draw here at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

On the fourth and final day, resuming from their overnight score of 96/4, Madhya Pradesh managed to reach 242 all out in 85.1 overs and set the hosts a target of 263. After a tense batting show on day 3, Venkatesh Iyer (79) and Aryan Pandey (42) steadied the ship to block out any further opening into their lower-order to frustrate their opponents.

Dhruv P picked up (4/52), while Madhav P Bajaj bagged (3/86).

In response, Secretary's XI openers started off on a positive note, showcasing some intent. Lochan S Gowda, however, had to walk back after a 19-ball 22. Tushar Singh added 22, while M Venkatesh scored 39. Rajvir Wadhwa (32) and Kruthik Krishna's (34) useful contributions added to the hosts' total, which eventually ended at 168/7 in 29 overs. Aryan (3/46) and Arshad Khan (2/36) shared five wickets between them.

While the hosts staged fightbacks in phases, a clinical show from Madhya Pradesh kept them ahead of their opponents.

Brief scores: Madhya Pradesh: 338 all out & 242 all out in 85.1 overs (Rishabh Chouhan 35, Venkatesh Iyer 79, Aryan Pandey 42; Dhruv P 4-52, Madhav P Bajaj 3-86, Venkatesh M 2-35) drew with KSCA Secretary's XI: 318 all out & 168/7 in 29 overs (Venkatesh M 38, Rajvir Wadhwa 32, Kruthik Krishna 34; Aryan Pandey 3-46, Arshad Khan 2-46). Result: Match Drawn.

Karnataka women win 4x100m relay silver

BENGALURU, DHNS: After bagging the 100m gold on Sunday, the in-form Sneha SS anchored Karnataka to silver medal in the women's 4x100m relay event on the third day of the 64th National Open Athletics Championships in Ranchi on Monday.

It needed an Herculean effort if Karnataka were to upset Railways and although Sneha gave it her all in the final lap, it still wasn't enough as the favourites galloped home convincingly with a timing of 46.09 seconds. The Karnataka quartet comprising Prakruthi Rao, V Sudheeksha, Jyothika and Sneha won silver after crossing the line in 45.66s.

Samardeep Gill upstaged two time Asian Games champion Tajinderpal Singh Toor for the men's shot put title. After a nervous start, Gill took time to regain his composure and raced to victory with a throw of 19.79m on his last attempt. Gill had series of 18.78m, 18.92m, 19.36m, 19.14m and 19.79m.

Toor, who later told reporters he wasn't feeling well to push hard, had a series of 18.82m, F, 18.39m, 19.13m, 18.94m and 19.32m. Toor had to settle for silver.

Results (winners only, Karnataka unless mentioned): Men: Hammer throw: Dammeet Singh (Pun) 68.71m. **High jump:** Rohit (Railways) 2.18m. **Long jump:** Mohd Sazid (Har) 7.78m. **Shot put:** Samardeep Gill (MP) 19.79m. **4x100m relay:** Railways (39.44s). **20km race walk:** Nitin Gupta (Services) 1:24:22.98. **Women: Pole vault:** Baranika Elangovan (Railways) 4.10m. **Javelin throw:** Deepika (Har) 54.86m. **4x100m relay:** Railways (45.09s) 1: Karnataka (45.66) 2. **20km race walk:** Munita Prajapati (Railways) 1:36:14.34.



The Karnataka women's 4x100m relay team -- (from left) Jyothika, V Sudheeksha, Sneha SS and Prakruthi Rao -- are all smiles after winning a silver medal at the National Open Athletics Championships on Monday.

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	PRICE REDUCTION OF UP TO#	NOW STARTING AT#	ADDITIONAL FESTIVE OFFERS OF UP TO*
FRONX	₹ 1 12 600	₹ 6 84 900	₹ 1 17 500
GRAND VITARA	₹ 1 07 000	₹ 10 76 500	₹ 1 59 100 + 5 Year Extended Warranty
BALENO	₹ 86 100	₹ 5 98 900	₹ 1 02 000
IGNIS	₹ 71 300	₹ 5 35 100	₹ 67 100
INVICTO	₹ 61 700	₹ 24 97 400	₹ 1 40 000
XL6	₹ 52 000	₹ 11 52 300	₹ 25 000
JIMNY	₹ 51 900	₹ 12 31 500	₹ 1 00 000



SCAN TO CONNECT
TO A SHOWROOM
NEAR YOU

***FESTIVE OFFERS VALID TILL 30TH SEP ONLY**



UP TO 100% WAIVER ON CAR LOAN PROCESSING FEE (ONLY TILL 30TH SEP)^{##}

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